



IAN JACK'S NOTEBOOK

HOWARD JACOBSON, FERGAL KEANE, SIMON CALLOW, GAVIN ESLER, ANN TRENEMAN, TERENCE BLACKER: THE BEST WRITING IS IN THE INDEPENDENT

I DO NOT THINK, IF NATIONALITY WAS ON OFFER, I WOULD BE QUITE READY YET TO BE GERMAN

PAGE 7



THE INDEPENDENT

No 3,721

SATURDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 1998

(1R80p) 70p

WEEKEND REVIEW



CURSE OF THE NAME OF LUCAN

PLUS ARTS, BOOKS & TRAVEL

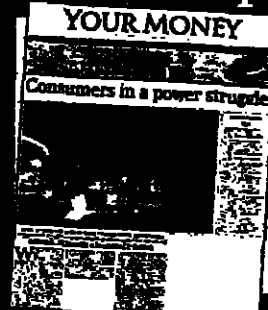
MAGAZINE



AFTER DIANA: THE PHOTOGRAPHS OF MARIO TESTINO

PLUS FASHION, FOOD & DRINK

YOUR MONEY



DINKY TOYS FOR BOYS (AND OTHER INVESTMENTS)

PLUS SHOPPING & MOTORING

Clinton awaits his final trial as Congress votes to release video

THE VIDEOTAPE of Bill Clinton's testimony about his relationship with Monica Lewinsky will be made public in its entirety, a US congressional committee ruled yesterday, with almost 3,000 pages of documentation supporting the report of the independent prosecutor, Kenneth Starr.

The decision was announced from Capitol Hill at midday after an extended and often bad-tempered session of the House of Representatives judiciary committee.

The four-hour tape is said to show the President veering from coolly legalistic, to evasive, to angry and coarse - at least once breaking off his replies to walk away from the interrogation. The few members of Congress who have already viewed the tape say it presents a devastating picture of a president embarrassed by his own behaviour and cornered by the judicial process.

The tape and documents will be officially released to the media on Monday at 9am Washington time - barring an earlier leak - and will be broadcast and published shortly afterwards. Several cable services have undertaken to broadcast the tape in full, while the networks are following a more cautious policy, as they did over publication of the Starr report, excising some of the more explicit material. The documents to be made public include much of Ms Lewinsky's testimony about her 18-month affair with the President.

According to the committee chairman, Henry Hyde, the ar-

BY MARY DEJEVSKY in Washington

gument was overwhelming for presenting the material directly to the American people so that they can make up their mind.

Mr Hyde said this was the main reason why the committee had decided that the tape should be released with minimal editing. There would be sexually explicit material, but that was the nature of the case. About 120 pages would be edited from the documents "to protect innocent people" from embarrassing disclosures.

INSIDE

Sexual McCarthyism, page 12
Fergal Keane, Review, page 3
Nation of victims, Review, page 7

Mr Hyde, who would also chair any proceedings to launch impeachment hearings, did not allude to recent charges about his own private life. But the allegations of his adultery, published in the Internet magazine Salon on the eve of the judiciary committee's deliberations, were widely seen as a stir intended to discredit or put pressure on him.

Whatever their provenance, they poisoned the atmosphere in the committee and may have hardened majority Republican opinion in favour of releasing the tape. Voting in the com-

mittee was reported to have divided along party lines, with the Democrats forcing every point to a vote - but doomed to lose, because the composition of the committee reflects the Republican majority in the House of Representatives.

Democrats made no effort to conceal their fury after the decision was announced. The leading Democrat on the judiciary committee, John Conyers, who has stood by Mr Clinton throughout the Lewinsky scandal, attacked the decision and accused Republicans of "jumping the gun" on impeachment proceedings.

Even before the decision was announced, however, the search was on in the Democratic Party for scapegoats. Some blamed Mr Clinton's lead lawyer, David Kendall, for allegedly failing to realise the risk in allowing the President's testimony to be taped. Mr Kendall responded that he had no choice: the judge had ruled that the testimony be taped for the benefit of grand jury members unable to attend and he had been unable to obtain any guarantee that the tape would be destroyed after it had been viewed by all the jurors.

One of Mr Clinton's former advisers, Harold Ickes, who was also a witness in the Lewinsky case, was quoted as saying that Mr Clinton should have agreed to attend the court house in person, as his testimony would not then have been taped, only transcribed.

Mr Clinton, answering reporters' questions earlier in the week, said he believed that



Bill Clinton making friends with a baby after arriving in Boston to attend Democratic fund-raising events

Reuters

the tape should remain confidential (as grand jury testimony is required to be during proceedings), but that he knew it would become public.

While the prevailing view

was that release of the tape would be immensely damaging to Mr Clinton in showing the American public a side of his character usually kept well hidden, some Republicans feared

that broadcasting the tape could rebound on them.

If the public is upset by the manner of the Starr team's questioning, sympathy for the President could increase.

Russian bank quizzed over IMF \$4bn

THE RUSSIAN procurator-general has begun an investigation into the Central Bank for a wide range of offences, including the misuse of billions of dollars in International Monetary Fund (IMF) funds sent to bail out the country.

The corruption scandal is focusing on the Central Bank as it prepares to turn on the printing presses and start churning out roubles. The procurator-general, Yuri Skuratov, said

BY PHIL REEVES in Moscow

that an investigation is underway, which has already reached the preliminary conclusion that the Central Bank "infringed the law".

The focus of the inquiry, which embraces other banks, appears to be a wide range of fiscal activities flowing from Russia's financial collapse and

the devaluation of the rouble. Among the issues under inspection is the use of the first \$4.8bn tranche of a \$22.6bn rescue package supervised by the IMF, which was supposed to enable the Central Bank to defend the rouble but failed. Suspicions abound in Moscow over how the money was used.

Although the investigation may be an attempt by the new guard in government to discredit the previous adminis-

tration, the Russian authorities appear to be taking it seriously. The inquiry is being spearheaded by intelligence agents from the Federal Security Service, the procurator-general's staff, and Russia's general accounting office.

Mr Skuratov, who warned against drawing premature conclusions, also reportedly said that the investigation, which began five days ago, would focus on Russia's short-

term, rouble-denominated high interest bonds, known as GKOs. The crash of the GKO market and Russia's decision to default led to the breakdown of the banking system, which has now paralysed the economy.

Official attention is also trained on the events of 17 August, the day that Russia announced its plans to devalue, and default on billions of dollars worth of debt. "We are investi-

gating the implementation of the laws [regarding banking and the Central Bank] and the events of 17 August," Alexander Zvyagintsev, spokesman for the public prosecutor's office, said.

The bank - already smarting from criticism of its handling of the crisis - has conceded that individuals may have been at fault. But, a spokesman said, "an investigation of some staff does not mean an investigation of the Central Bank".

AD43 and all that: Roman invasion was a myth



THE ROMAN conquest of Britain AD43 is a myth put about to disguise the fact that Rome helped to liberate the peaceful inhabitants of southern England from tribes of aggressive northerners.

Historians at Oxford University have revised one of the most dramatic periods in British history, in which ancient Britons are traditionally portrayed as the victims of a brutal and ruthless invasion.

In fact the early Britons wel-

BY STEVE CONNOR Science Editor

comed the Romans with open arms and there was little organised resistance against the Roman military advance, according to Martin Henig, visiting lecturer in Roman art at Oxford's Archaeology Institute.

Dr Henig argues that the "Boy's Own" descriptions of the battles fought between the Romans and the British Celts were invented as part of a pro-

paganda campaign designed to inflate the importance of Agricola, the 1st-century Roman governor of Britain.

"All the evidence suggests Britain's southern rulers were Romanised before the invasion, welcomed the invasion and profited from it," Dr Henig said.

"They had effectively been conquered by the tribes to the north, who had virtually enslaved the whole area to the south. The inhabitants of southern Britain were really

refugees and the Roman invasion was a liberation."

Several new archaeological discoveries and interpretations of historical sources point to the Roman "conquest" being an invasion. The Romans were most likely to have been invited by a deposed Celtic king who wanted to oust an occupying northern tribe from his land, Dr Henig writes in *British Archaeology*.

He believes Agricola's historian Tacitus may have borne

a grudge against upwardly mobile Celts and resented the role these Celtic friends of Rome played in quelling the uprising led by Boudicca (Boadicea). "An intense personal animosity may easily have coloured the historian's interpretation of events," Dr Henig said.

"Someone like Boudicca was not a British nationalist. She murdered so many Britons it is better to see her in the light of someone like Pol Pot."

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French designer Edmond Boubli is to open a London boutique specialising in clothes for 'round' women

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FOREIGN

Brazil's president is accused of hiding the extent of the financial crisis as elections loom

PAGE 14

BUSINESS

Racal is to create up to 400 jobs in a venture with the French defence electronics group Thomson-CSF

PAGE 17

SPORT

Glenn Hoddle will be offered an extended contract as England coach that will cover the 2002 World Cup

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HOME NEWS

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Shell to axe 2,000 UK jobs

The oil giant Shell announced plans to close its landmark head office in central London with the loss of up to 2,000 jobs - part of a wider shake-up that will see the closure of head offices in Paris, Hamburg and Rotterdam.

Page 5

Scot Nats prepare for power

Scottish National leader Alex Salmond stands on the threshold of history as party members prepare for next week's annual conference - the last get-together before next May's elections to the Scottish Parliament. With opinion polls showing the SNP on level pegging with Labour, an overall majority in the new assembly is not inconceivable.

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FOREIGN NEWS

PAGES 12-16

Mexico stunned by massacre

The killers burst into Fermín Castro's ranch compound near Ensenada in Baja California just before dawn. Brandishing AK-47s, they pulled everyone they could find from their beds - 21 people all told, including eight children and a pregnant woman - and systematically shot them all, leaving their bodies piled on top of each other in a tight circle.

Page 12

Wolf packs extend their range

Wolves are being blamed for the death of more than 200 sheep in the high pastures near Grenoble - the first time this century that the animals have ventured so far north from their Alpine range.

Page 15

BUSINESS NEWS

PAGES 17-20

Japan banks on state control

Japan took a major step towards sorting out its debt-ridden banking system, when politicians agreed to put the weakest banks - including the troubled Long Term Credit Bank - under state control.

Page 17

Takeover bids for Allied Carpets

Allied Carpets was at the centre of takeover speculation last night after the troubled retailer said it had received a number of bid approaches. Shares in Allied Carpets, which have been pummeled by an accounting scandal and difficult trading conditions, rose 12.5p to 87p.

Page 17

SPORTS NEWS

PAGES 24-32

Leicestershire strengthen grip

Leicestershire strengthened their grip on cricket's county championship when they declared on 585 for 6 against Surrey and then took four quick wickets.

Page 27

Rugby move hits permit barrier

Wendell Sailor's move from Australia to play rugby union for Leeds Tykes and rugby league for Leeds Rhinos is in jeopardy because he has been declared ineligible for a work permit to play rugby union.

Page 32

SATURDAY REVIEW

32-PAGE BROADSHEET SECTION

Patricia Clough

'Before long, little Helmut Kohl could be seen strutting around the garden with a teacup on his head and a sheet round his shoulders, playing a favourite game. He was a bishop, and his friends were dutifully carrying his train.'

Page 5

Gavin Esler

'Despite his personal charisma and the obvious wealth of the richest nation in history, many Americans sense that their country has gone seriously wrong in the 1990s, and that President Clinton's dishonesty is a symptom of a wider rotteness.'

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Cryptic crossword, section one, page 32



Recycled paper made up 46.03% of the raw material for UK newspapers in 1997



The service in the Netherlands yesterday for Corporal George Froud and two other soldiers killed at Arnhem

Funeral for soldiers, 54 years on

BY CLARE GARNER

A SECOND WORLD War corporal has finally received the military funeral he deserved, 54 years after he was shot out of the sky during the battle of Arnhem in the Netherlands.

The remains of George Froud, discovered in a garden last year, were buried yesterday with full honours at an hour-long funeral attended by his son at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery in Oosterbeek. Two fellow soldiers, Sergeant Lawrence Howes and Sergeant David Thompson, of the Glider Pilot Regiment, were also buried.

An initial search by the Ministry of Defence had failed to trace any of Corporal Froud's relatives to attend his funeral, but a last-minute public appeal led to the discovery of his son, Terry Marsh, 57, of Chichester, West Sussex, who was three when his father died, said he had been shocked to learn the body had been found.

Ofsted chief gets 34% rise

TEACHERS' UNION leaders

reacted angrily yesterday after Chris Woodhead, the chief inspector of schools, was reappointed for four years and handed a pay rise of nearly £30,000 a year.

Union leaders attacked the 34 per cent increase, which takes Mr Woodhead's salary from £26,000 to £35,000 a year. He will also get performance bonuses of up to 10 per cent, which could take his pay to £38,500.

By contrast the six largest teaching unions said that teachers' pay had risen by just 0.2 per cent since 1992 in real terms, compared with an average 7.4 per cent increase for other non-manual staff. They sub-

BY BEN RUSSELL

Education Correspondent

mitted a joint claim for a "substantial" pay rise, saying it was essential to end the crisis in teacher recruitment.

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers, said Mr Woodhead's rise would "set the teachers' pay issue on fire".

The Government defended Mr Woodhead's rise, saying his salary was in line with other regulators.

"trendy" teaching methods. He

angered teachers by claiming that 15,000 were incompetent.

Criticism has also come from some local authorities, teacher training specialists and educational researchers, who have all complained about his treatment at the hands of inspectors.

Mr Woodhead defended his salary increase, claiming to have been underpaid in the past. "I think it is a reasonable pay increase," he said. "It is a salary that is comparable to that paid to senior figures working for the Government."

"I am proud of the contribution Ofsted has made to the Government's drive to raise educational standards. It is a re-

fection of the hard work of all my staff and I now look forward to overseeing the continuation and development of this work."

The Department for Education and Employment insisted that Mr Woodhead's salary was less than the £143,000 paid to the head of the Office of Fair Trading and the Rail Regulator's salary of £139,000.

David Blunkett, Education Secretary, praised Ofsted's work, and said the inspectorate should work to raise classroom morale. But Peter Smith, general secretary of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, said: "Teachers will be furious about Chris Woodhead's pay increase, particularly as they are already underpaid."

Doug McAvoy, leader of the

National Union of Teachers, added: "The chief inspector has a low way to go to recapture teachers' confidence. My advice to him is to spin less and listen more. The level of increase in his pay is the kind of substantial increase deserved by teachers."

Dr John Dunford, president of the Secondary Heads Association, said it was an "insult" to teaching staff.

Don Foster, the Liberal Democrat Education spokesman, said Mr Blunkett had made "an appalling decision," insisting that Mr Woodhead's job should have been advertised openly.

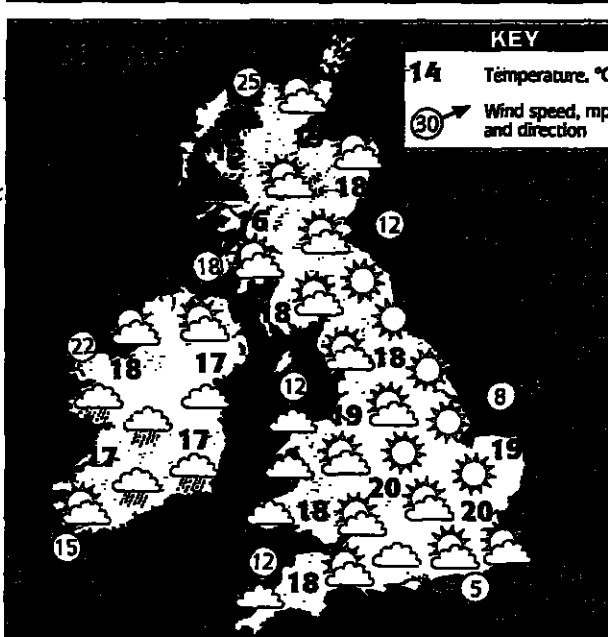
The debate over Mr Wood-



Chris Woodhead: 'I think pay rise is reasonable'

head's role will be reopened next month when the powerful Commons Education Select Committee begins an inquiry into Ofsted.

BRITAIN TODAY



FORECAST

General situation: Cloud over southern England breaking, with warm sunshine coming through. Most other regions will be sunny and warm after early fog patches. West Wales and north-west England will become cloudier. Northern Ireland and western Scotland will cloud over with drizzle possible later.

Cont S & SE England, London, Channel Is: Cloud breaking with any mist lifting, leaving some warm sunshine. Light variable winds. Max temp 20-22°C (68-72°F). Tonight, fog patches later. Min temp 12-14°C (54-57°F).

Midlands, E England, E Anglia, Cont N & NE England, SE & NE Scotland, Edinburgh, Aberdeen: Mist or fog patches soon clearing, leaving plenty of warm sunshine. Light south to south-east winds. Max temp 18-20°C (66-72°F). Tonight, fog patches later. Min temp 11-13°C (52-55°F).

SW England, Wales: Mist or fog patches clearing. Long spells of sunshine but cloudier in the west. Light south to south-east winds. Max temp 19-21°C (66-70°F). Tonight, misty inland. Min temp 12-14°C (54-57°F).

NI: Light rain or drizzle, with some sun. Light south to south-east winds. Max temp 16-18°C (61-64°F). Tonight, misty inland. Min temp 11-13°C (52-55°F).

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LIGHTING UP

Location	3.30pm	7.00am
Belfast	7.16pm	6.46am
Birmingham	7.16pm	6.46am
Bristol	7.16pm	6.46am
Cardiff	7.16pm	6.46am
Edinburgh	7.16pm	6.46am
Glasgow	7.16pm	6.46am
London	7.16pm	6.46am
Manchester	7.16pm	6.46am
Newcastle	7.16pm	6.46am

HIGH TIDES

Location	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	6.33	12.1	6.54	12.6
Amble	6.33	12.1	6.54	12.6
Cardiff	6.33	12.1	6.54	12.6
Cardiff	6.33	12.1	6.54	12.6
Cardiff	6.33	12.1	6.54	12.6
Cardiff	6.33	12.1	6.54	12.6
Cardiff	6.33	12.1	6.54	12.6
Cardiff	6.33	12.1	6.54	12.6
Cardiff	6.33	12.1	6.54	12.6
Cardiff	6.33	12.1	6.54	12.6

AIR QUALITY

Location	No ₂	O ₃	Mod
London	10.0	1.0	1.0
London	10.0	1.0	1.0
London	10.0	1.0	1.0
London	10.0	1.0	1.0
London	10.0	1.0	1.0
London	10.0	1.0	1.0
London	10.0	1.0	1.0
London	10.0	1.0	1.0
London	10.0	1.0	1.0
London	10.0	1.0	1.0

SUN & MOON

Sun rises: 06.40	Sun sets: 19.09
Moon rises: 06.02	Moon sets: 18.25
Moon phase: 18.25	Moon phase: 18.25
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WEATHERLINE

For the latest forecasts call 0800 5000 followed by the two digits for your area. Source: The Met. Office. Calls charged at 50p per min (inc VAT).

RAIN OR SHINE

DAVID Splaine, an engineer from Bristol, may well be the ultimate fair-weather motorist.

Thirty years ago Mr Splaine spent £1,421 on a new MGB GT Coupé and he has still never driven the car in the wet.

With a good weather forecast for today and tomorrow Mr Splaine, 55, is preparing to hit the (dry) road and add to the car's mileage of just 35,000.

THE WORLD

EUROPE NOON TODAY

Key: 1024-1028 mb pressure in millibars. 1032-1036 mb pressure in millibars. 1032-1036 mb pressure in millibars.

THE ATLANTIC NOON TODAY

Key: 1024-1028 mb pressure in millibars. 1032-1036 mb pressure in millibars. 1032-1036 mb pressure in millibars.

THE WORLD YESTERDAY

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DAV

Blair's third way leads to New York

BY STEPHEN CASTLE
AND DAVID USBORNE

BILL CLINTON will have other things on his mind. The Swedish Prime Minister, Goran Persson, may not know whether he still holds office. And Tony Blair will be suffering from the jet-lag inevitable on a day-trip to New York. But for two hours on Monday, the three men will join their Italian counterpart Romano Prodi in New York for what is being billed as a global seminar on the "third way".

The term is the latest of those used by Tony Blair's supporters to describe his political philosophy, and that of the re-invented centre-left in Europe and North America. The discussion is deemed important enough for Mr Persson to leave Stockholm only hours after the polls close in the country's general election.

But is it? From London the trip is being spun with gusto. To coincide with the seminar the Prime Minister will publish a Fabian Society pamphlet outlining his latest "third way" thinking. Selected leaks are likely to appear in the press before he boards Concorde.

Mr Blair will make two speeches, at the United Nations General Assembly and the New York stock exchange. At 4pm the seminar will begin under a title which cannot have been cleared by the spin doctors: "Strengthening democracy in the global economy: an opening dialogue". The audience at the NYU School of Law, of students, professors and journal-



Lionel Jospin: his own way

ists, will not be allowed to ask questions. The discussion is likely to be general, focusing on common problems: employment, welfare and the global economy. The beauty of the "third way", of course, is that all manner of political strategies can be pursued, providing they fall short of pure free-market economics on the one hand or dirigiste state socialism on the other. Whether the seminar will clarify what it means is another matter.

Critics argue that the "third way" is simply the latest buzz phrase being used to give some intellectual ballast to New Labour's rightwards drift. "First there was 'stakeholding', then there was 'communitarianism', now there is the 'third way'", said one party insider. Mr Blair has, however, won intellectual brownie points by recruiting to the cause Anthony Giddens, director of the London School of Economics. In the United States there are advocates, too. Prominent among them is Syd-

ney Blumenthal, the former political columnist who is now one of President Clinton's close advisers. (So close, in fact, that he features prominently in the Starr report). In May Mr Blumenthal told a meeting of the World Policy Institute: "With Great Britain we have forged a new special relationship, a 21st century alliance, as the President called it, based not only on our traditional mutual interests but on our common conviction of the necessity for a new social contract."

"Blair is accused of accused of spin and waffling, lacking conviction, offering up a blur, just conservatism in disguise. But the emergence of a transatlantic one-nation politics of a new third way makes it increasingly clear that far more than personality is at stake."

It is the third such discussion between Messrs Blair and Clinton, and Ben Hall, research director at the Centre for European Reform and a former aide to Robin Cook, argues: "It is rather ironic that the third way conference is happening in New York when the impetus must be coming from continental Europe." Surely, goes the argument, Mr Blair should be trying to strike up common themes with his European partners as the left strengthens its grip on the continent. Which raises the interesting question of Lionel Jospin's absence.

According to one government source Mr Jospin turned down an invitation. The rumour was that the French Prime Minister felt snubbed be-

cause the organisers had not been swifter to contact him. Whatever the explanation his absence underlines the difference of emphasis between his government and Mr Blair's.

Mr Jospin has traditional European socialist roots, so much so that when he was elected, New Labour aides quipped that he was just the sort of figure who would have been expelled from their party. Since then there has been a rapprochement, culminating in Mr Jospin's visit to London, and to Mr Blair's Sedgefield constituency earlier this year.

They seemed closer on policy too. In a set-piece speech in London Mr Jospin produced a soundbite much admired by Mr Blair's French-speaking press spokesman, Alastair Campbell: "Yes to a market economy, no to a market society".

In Germany, Gerhard Schröder, the Social Democrat challenger in this month's elections, has also deployed similar language, talking of a "new middle", although commentators find his political recipe vague.

While the rhetoric of the centre-left in Europe may be converging, it is hard to see a new, homogenous philosophy taking hold. As Dr Pfaffner puts it: "In Great Britain it makes particular political sense because Old Labour was more leftist in its ideological leanings than, for example, the German Social Democrats or the Scandinavian socialists. But the third way means different things in different countries."



Tony Blair represents a new transatlantic politics, according to one of President Clinton's advisers Reuters

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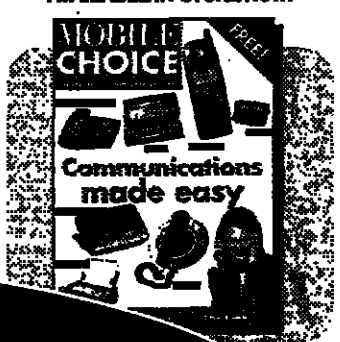
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Blair blamed for arms sales switch

TONY BLAIR watered down Robin Cook's ethical foreign policy after pressure from Britain's main arms manufacturers, says a new biography of the Foreign Secretary.

When the policy was launched soon after the general election Mr Cook was heavily criticised by campaigning groups for failing to be tough enough on the arms trade.

Now the book - not authorised but written with the co-operation of the Foreign Secretary and his staff - has suggested Mr Blair was behind the Government's more arms-friendly stance. One of his main advisers was Lord Hollick, a Labour peer and former director of British Aerospace.

John Kampfner, the biography's author, suggests that while Mr Cook's junior minister, Tony Lloyd, was being lob-

BY FRAN ABRAMS
Westminster Correspondent

bied by anti-arms pressure groups, Mr Blair was entertaining the heads of major arms companies in Downing Street.

"These captains of industry were the kind of people Blair liked to invite around to Downing Street," the book says, claiming a final draft of Mr Cook's ethical arms policy was toned down by officials in Downing Street, then by Mr Blair. In a meeting with his Foreign Secretary, the Prime Minister insisted on the insertion of a statement underlining the government's commitment to a strong defence industry.

Downing Street also added a rider that the use of defence equipment by security forces for their own protection was not to be considered grounds for re-

fusing an export licence. Mr Cook is believed to have protested to little effect at the dilution of his reforms, for which he campaigned for two decades in opposition.

Ann Clwyd, the Labour MP for Cynon Valley who has pressed for curbs on the arms trade, said the book confirmed that Robin Cook had acted in good faith. "People were whispering to me that I didn't understand the kind of pressure Robin was under," she said. "Presumably, that pressure came from Number 10."

A spokesman for British Aerospace said its senior executives met government regularly, but policy was a matter for ministers. Lord Hollick had resigned his directorship for political reasons.

Downing Street declined to comment.

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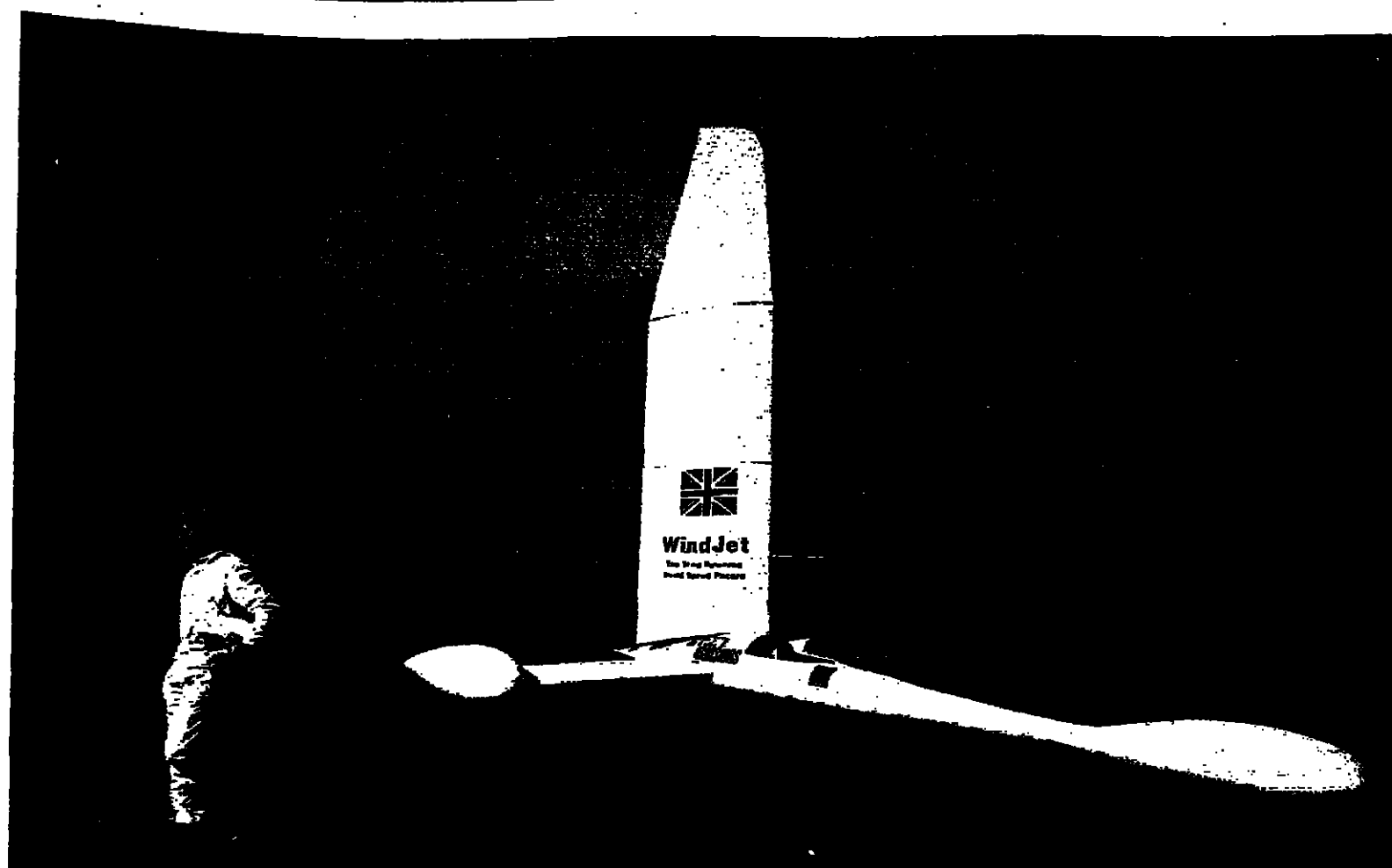
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Richard Jenkins at Wroughton Aerodrome, Swindon, yesterday with the Windjet, the craft in which he will attempt to break the wind-powered world speed record in France in October. The Windjet is capable of 100mph in the correct conditions
Christopher Jones

Killers freed under Ulster agreement

BY DAVID MCKITTRICK
Ireland Correspondent

THE FIRST Northern Ireland prisoners serving life sentences for murder were freed yesterday as part of the Good Friday agreement's early release provisions.

Five men serving life for murder walked free from the Maze prison, near Belfast, under the scheme which is scheduled to see the jails practically emptied of paramilitary prisoners within the next two years.

Four were loyalists jailed for killing Catholic civilians while the fifth was an IRA prisoner who shot dead a police officer. All had served between 10 and 14 years in jail. Since the

terms they served are close to the average for those jailed for murder, none could be said to have benefited spectacularly.

Yesterday's releases bring the total number of prisoners freed to 24 - a tally that is expected to rise to about 200 by Christmas. The releases drew only a muted political response yesterday, apparently indicating that the issue has lost some of its shock potential.

The release scheme was initially the most controversial element of the Good Friday agreement, with the public unprepared for the idea that the jails would be emptied as part of the new political settlement. Since then, however, it appears to have become accepted, with much reluctance, that such releases are inevitable.

The republican released yesterday was Damien Nicol, who was convicted of shooting dead an RUC officer, Clive Graham, at a police checkpoint in Londonderry in 1988.

Three of the four loyalists released are former soldiers. Mark Trotter and Robert

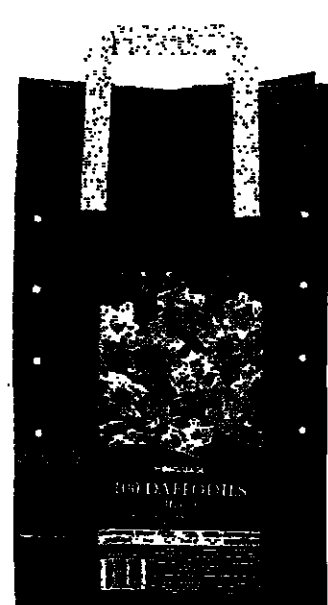
Kenny from Enniskillen, Co Fermanagh, were convicted of murdering Edward Love in 1985. Kenny was a private in the Ulster Defence Regiment, and Trotter, the son of a policeman, was a mechanic serving with the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

Another former UDR soldier, Geoffrey Edwards, was sentenced for the murder of a Sinn Féin election worker, Peter Corrigan, in 1982. The fourth loyalist, Thomas Mair, was sentenced to life for the murder of William McLaughlin in north Belfast in 1984.

The Irish Prime Minister, Bertie Ahern, is to meet Northern Ireland's First Minister, David Trimble, in Dublin next week to review political progress. Dublin is anxious to press ahead with the formation of an executive which would include Sinn Féin members, while Mr Trimble is pushing for IRA arms decommissioning in advance of such a move.

Mr Ahern said yesterday: "What we have to do is allow no single item be a stumbling block. I'm determined that we try to move the agenda in its totality forward."

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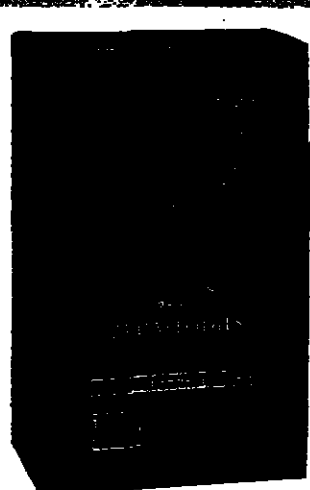
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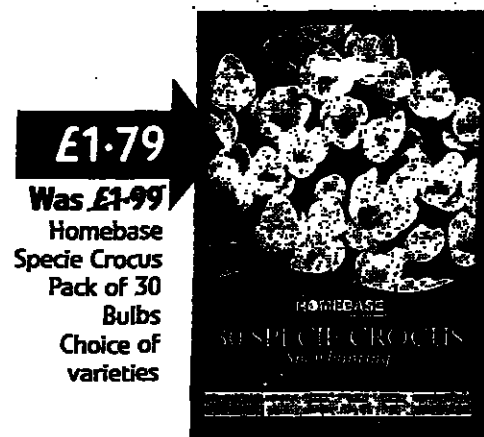
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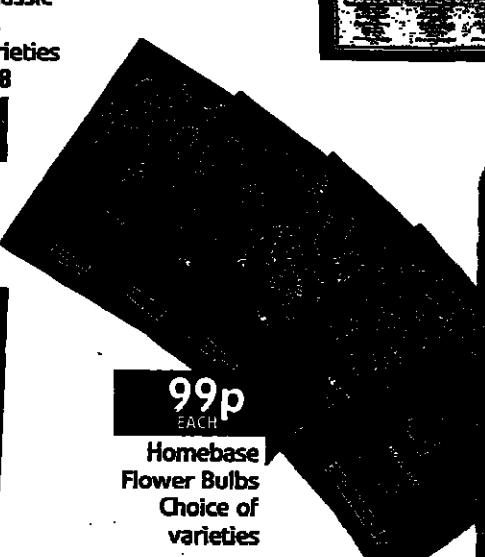
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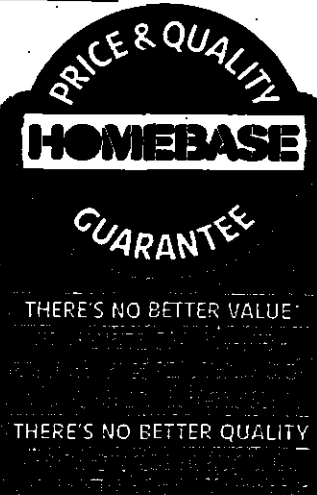
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Action zones set schools tough targets

AMBITIOUS TARGETS for raising standards in some of our most deprived schools are disclosed in a new study showing in some areas the aim is to double or even treble the number of pupils awarded good exam grades.

Several underachieving schools in the government's new education action zones have a long way to go. In one, as few as 7 per cent of pupils are achieving five top grades at GCSE, and in others more than a third leave without a qualification.

Twelve zones set up this term will receive up to £1m extra a year from the taxpayer and private sources in return for improving pupils' performance. A further 13 will begin work next January.

The survey by the National Union of Teachers discloses that all zones have plans to reduce the underclass created by pupils leaving without qualifications. David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, has promised to give the issue priority.

Though the Government has set improvement targets for local education authorities, zones - run by forums of business leaders, local authority representatives, teachers and parents - have set their own.

There are big variations in the targets. Hull wants to raise the proportion achieving at least one GCSE from 77 per

cent to 94 per cent over three years and Nottingham aims to raise it from 75 to 85 per cent.

Birmingham aims to more than treble the percentage of pupils getting five A to C grades at GCSE, from 9 to 29 per cent, and Nottingham intends to raise it from 7 to 20 per cent.

In Brighton, the aim is to raise the proportion in English from 30 to 80 per cent in three years. Hull wants to move from 43 to 68 per cent. In the Salford and Trafford zone in Greater Manchester, nearly two-thirds of pupils are on free school meals, which is the commonest measure of poverty in Britain, and this is more than three times the national average of 18 per cent. In East Middlesbrough, the figure is 56 per cent and in Birmingham (Aston and Nechells) just more than half.

In Newcastle, 37 per cent of pupils leave without a single GCSE qualification, in Nottingham, a quarter and in Hull 23 per cent. The national average is about 8 per cent.

Doug McAvoy, the union's general secretary, said: "The Government is right to focus on educational deprivation but the mechanism for choosing which places get the money is unfair. It depends on the quality of the bid rather than the level of deprivation."

IN BRIEF

Condon must go, says Pcs' head

THE HEAD of the Metropolitan Police "union" yesterday called for the resignation of Sir Paul Condon, the Commissioner, over the Stephen Lawrence case. Mike Bennett said allegations of corruption and racism surrounding the Lawrence murder investigation had dragged down morale so much a new commissioner was needed. Mr Bennett, retiring after 12 years as chairman of the federation, said the publicity could get worse when the independent report into the investigation was published.

Warning on digital TV costs

THE BBC yesterday launched its digital television services warning that the new technology could divide people into television haves and have-nots. "The costs of being a television consumer will rise enormously," said Sir John Birt, the director general. The full range of digital channels available with BSkyB's satellite service on 1 October, will cost £300 per year on top of the £97.50 BBC licence fee and the £199 cost of a set-top box.

Lockerbie trial venue chosen

A DUTCH air base at Soesterberg, 20 miles from Amsterdam has been chosen as the venue for the proposed trial of the two Libyan suspects in the Lockerbie bombing. The venue was agreed by the British ambassador to the Netherlands Rosemary Spencer and Dutch Foreign Minister Jozias van Aartsen.

"Adams Family Values"

We would like to point out that all John McVicar's quotes, with the exception of his final quote, in yesterday's "Adams Family Values" article were published in *Punch* last year.

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Kenny from Enniskillen, Northern Ireland, was convicted of the murder of Edward Louis Kennedy in 1996. Kennedy was a prominent figure in the Irish Republican Army (IRA) and was killed in a car bomb attack in 1996. Kennedy was a member of the IRA and was killed in a car bomb attack in 1996. Kennedy was a member of the IRA and was killed in a car bomb attack in 1996.

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BY JUDITH J. J. J.

Education Editor

cent to 94 per cent in 1997 and 1998.

race it from the top of the list.

than 100,000 pupils in the country.

at GUSK, from 1997 to 1998.

and Northern Ireland.

raise it from 1997 to 1998.

In Brighton, the race the prospect of a 10 per cent increase in 1998.

from 50 to 60 per cent in 1998.

45 to 55 per cent in 1998.

and Trafford, the Manchester schools of pupils are in the middle.

who to the end of the year.

and this is a good thing.

times the number of pupils per school.

per cent in 1998.

through the year.

and in 1998.

See how the schools are doing.

In 1998, the schools are doing well.

pupils are in the middle.

at GUSK, from 1997 to 1998.

and Northern Ireland.

raise it from 1997 to 1998.

In Brighton, the race the prospect of a 10 per cent increase in 1998.

from 50 to 60 per cent in 1998.

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per cent in 1998.

through the year.

and in 1998.

Ich bin ein Berliner. Or maybe not

HALF-WAY THROUGH a quick tour of Berlin last Sunday, I asked my guide what was the city's largest industry. An old-fashioned kind of question, I agree: it comes from a time when the maps in school geography books had little silhouettes of the codfish next to the name Hull and emblematic ships stuck across the River Clyde, when differences between cities, counties and regions could still be represented by something more profound than football shirts. But the answer was still a surprise.

"Culture," said my guide. "This city has a hundred museums, nine orchestras and three opera houses. Culture is what we do in Berlin." And, he might have added, festivals, because festivals are also what they do in Berlin. The city has them six months out of every 12: films, jazz, literature, theatre, "young music". You can't move for cultural celebrations of one sort or another. In September it's the turn of the misleadingly named Berlin Festival - as though there was only one of them - which this year has an American-British theme to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Berlin Airlift. I was there as the editor of *Granta* to talk about new British writing, and I'd gone with a certain amount of apprehension. You may remember the scene in Carol Reed's *The Third Man* when Joseph Cotten, who hacks out a living by writing pulp Westerns, suddenly and much to his alarm finds himself before a solemn Viennese audience who have gathered to hear his views on the state of the literary novel after James Joyce.

Before my flight last Saturday, I began, nervously, to remember it a lot. National stereotypes are everywhere to be suspected, but there is, undeniably, a serious intelligence to German culture, which has the effect - they may not mean it to, but it has - of persuading non-Germans that they are incorrigibly frivolous and will be found out. And to be British these days is to belong to perhaps the most famously frivolous nation on earth. We are found out even before we begin.

But on the plane I read an excellent piece by Jane

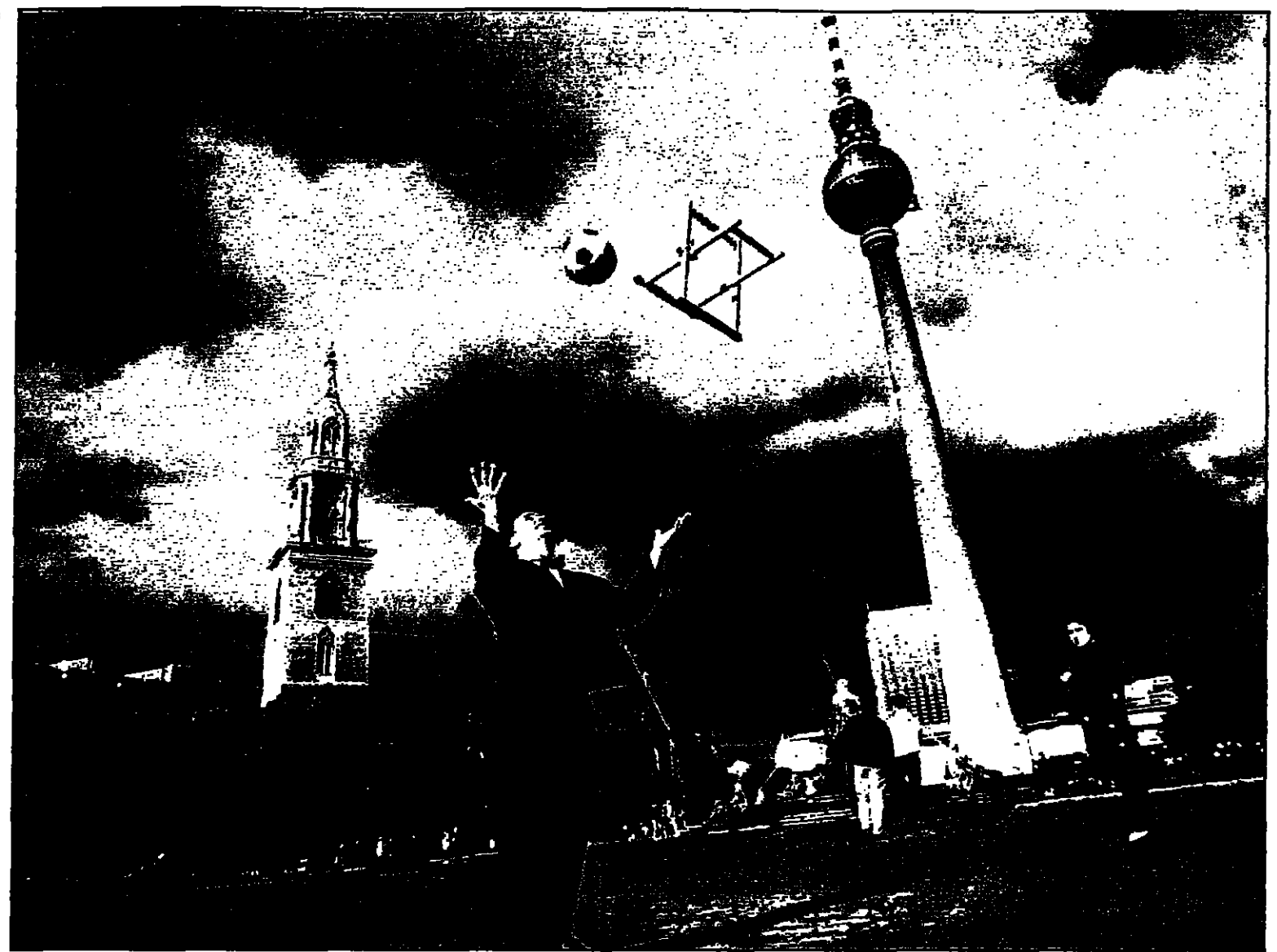
NOTEBOOK



IAN JACK

Kramer in *The New Yorker*, which contained reassuring news. It was about Gerhard Schröder, the leader of the German Social Democrats, who is (or was) expected by most people to beat Helmut Kohl in the coming elections and become the new president. Schröder, according to Kramer, does not believe in anything very much but looks good ("Germany's Clinton-blair") and, even more important to his electoral appeal, never refers to "yesterday" and the burden of German history which Kohl, who is old enough to have been conscripted in the Hitler Youth, still carries on his broad shoulders. This, Kramer wrote, matched the mood of a country that was - at last - recovering from the complicated psychological and political legacies of the Third Reich and the Cold War. Suddenly, the Germans felt like normal people in a normal country. Life was beginning to amuse them; they could laugh at themselves. Why, Kramer wrote, they were even "writing funny novels and making funny movies".

I was met and greeted warmly at the airport and taken to my hotel on the Kurfürstendamm. The hotel was charming: irregular passages, gilt mirrors, old photographs of famous guests on the walls (Arthur Miller stayed here and, so I was told, Franz Kafka). It was also hushed. The street outside, which is Berlin's most fashionable place to shop, was nearly as quiet. The newspapers, I noticed, had Clinton's sexual adventures modestly displayed at the bottom of the page rather than the top, only with perseverance would you learn about the cigar. That



Street art in the new Berlin, a city which, in a post-Kohl era, may be able to come to terms with what went before

Colorific

day's London papers had whole supplements on the affair. Later I found that people in Berlin even talked about it in a different way - with more bafflement and distaste and less voyeuristic glee, as the British might once have done. The febrility of Anglo-American civilisation, the noise of its media and its streets, the shaky feeling that you sometimes get in London and New York that anything might happen - all this seemed far away, as though a gale from the Atlantic had blown itself out to the west, somewhere over Holland.

That night we had dinner with a couple of Berlin publishers. One came from Kiel, the only thing I could associate with the town was the term "U-boat pen", which shamed me and which I didn't mention. I asked the other, a man I guessed to be in his thirties, about the Kramer piece. Was Germany now "normal"? Had people got history off their backs? His answer was definitely not: it was something so large that it still complicated everything, and perhaps especially German writing (and here it may not be coincidence that about half the books published in Germany are translations from Britain and the US, where the past is a lighter load).

Perhaps the publisher was untypical. Perhaps he was too earnest. But the next afternoon I saw, in a tiny but very direct way, precisely what he meant. In the morning we took a bus to what was once the separate city of East Berlin and walked through a poorer townscape of modernism gone wrong: wide roads, weeds between flagstones, shabby high-rises that were monumental versions of the stuff inflicted on Britain's inner cities and New Towns. We saw a robust statue of Marx and Engels together - retained by popular protest - and a heap of new drainpipes lying stiffly in line with VIAGRA daubed down the side of one of them, a joke that would win the Turner Prize. Eventually we reached

the Potsdamer Platz, where, on the no-man's land that once divided east and west, the new centre of what will be Germany's capital in two years' time is rising from the ground. Famous international architects have been hired, the sky is filled with cranes, the new European headquarters of the Sony Corporation and Daimler-Benz are taking shape. But there is also something quite modest about it all - none of the new building is tall - as though the planners feared that architectural ambition might be mistaken for national arrogance. The past again.

I asked our guide about the city's contentious plans for a Holocaust memorial. He said it was Kohl's idea - "some-where foreign politicians can come and lay a few flowers" - and that he, like many Berliners, was against it. The Holocaust was too serious to be remembered in that way. It was lunchtime. I went back to the hotel to prepare my small speech. How to link, in a few light introductory remarks, the magazine, *Granta*, with the city, Berlin? In London, I'd remembered there was a tenuous connection. *Granta* is named after the river in Cambridge, as is the village just upstream. Grantchester. The poet Rupert Brooke had lived in the Old Vicarage, Grantchester - Jeffrey Archer lives

there now - and written a poem with the same title that ends with two of the most famous lines in English verse: "Stands the church clock at ten to three/And is there honey still for tea?" Also - hey presto! - I remembered that the poem carried a dateline: Café des Westens, Berlin, May, 1913.

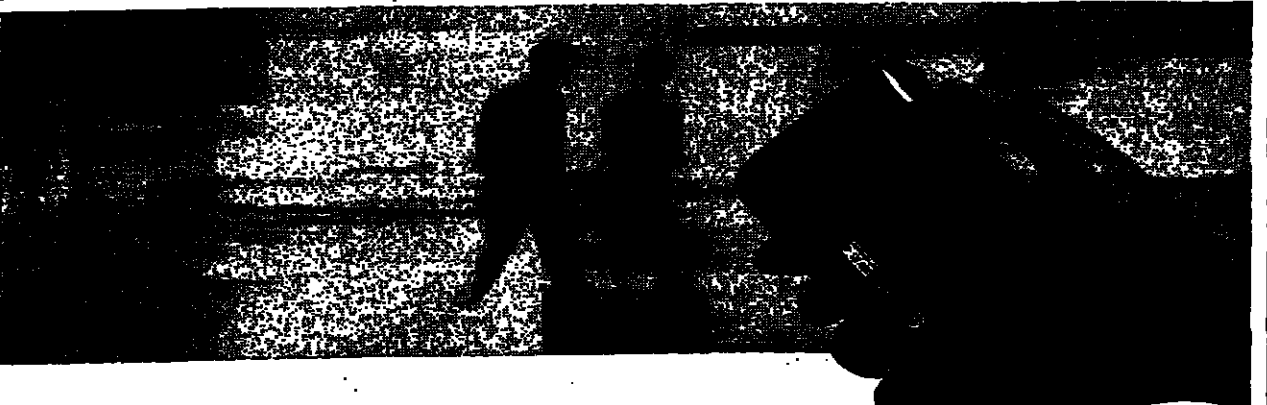
It's a poem of homesickness and patriotism: "God, I will pack, and take a train/And get me to England once again!" When I read it in London, it had seemed almost comic in its nationalism. Even our flowers were better: "Here (Berlin) tulips bloom as they are told/Unkempt about those (English) hedges blows/An English unofficial rose." In Berlin, however, it seemed disgusting: "Temperament! German Jews/Drink beer around, and there the dew/Are soft beneath a morn of gold."

Jews and dew - the pun needs locking-up. And so 99 people gathered in a Berlin art gallery did not hear about Rupert Brooke, not because his attitudes are unsayable or undiscussable in Berlin - far from it - but because the saying and discussing of them could not be achieved quickly or lightly; we would be into a large, disturbing and over-familiar subject, which would cloud anything that came after, if that is, anything could come after.

This was for me a small thing, a few sentences repressed, but as I sat over my notes in the old-fashioned Sunday hush of a Berlin hotel lounge - grey skies, no wind, the shops shut, the purr of a distant vacuum-cleaner - it gave me a minute taste of what it must be like to have been a German writer, or perhaps just a German, over the past half-century. That time may be over. Schröder may encapsulate the "normality" of younger generations. But I do not think, if nationality was on offer, I would be quite ready yet to be German. Berlin is probably the most well-mannered, courteous city I've been in since the Glasgow or Edinburgh of my childhood. But there is never any danger of forgetting its history, which sometimes, in the interests of feeling "normal", you would certainly want and need to forget.

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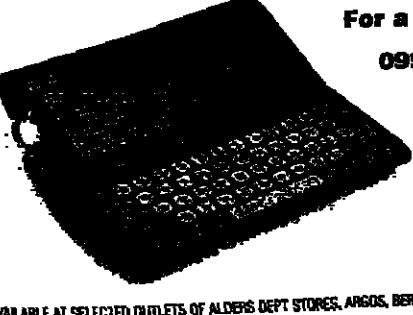
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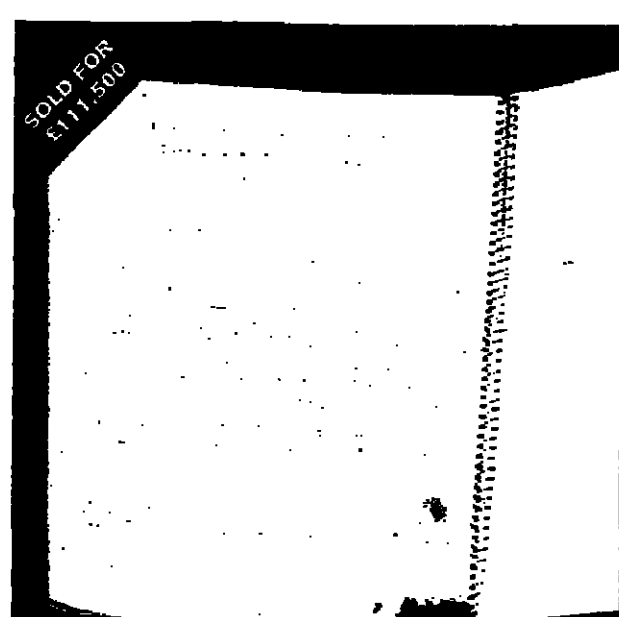
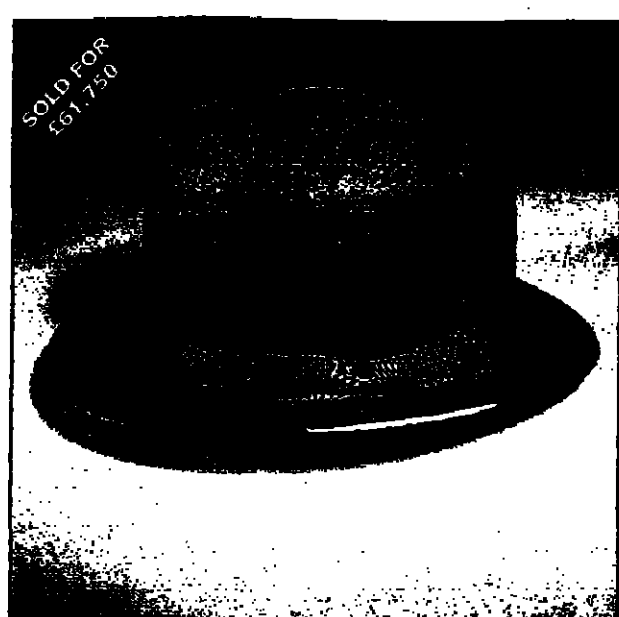
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Mrs Evans' notebook. Yours for £111,000



Former Spice Girl Geri Halliwell's dress; Oddjob's killer hat from the film 'Goldfinger'; a notebook belonging to a Beatles road manager; and Elton John's matador outfit were all sold this week



EVERYONE KNOWS who James Bond is and it may be no great surprise that Bond film memorabilia sold for £500,000 at Christie's this week. But you probably haven't heard of Lily Evans.

Nevertheless, a notebook belonging to Mrs Evans was sold by Sotheby's this week for £111,500. Mrs Evans is the widow of Mal Evans, who was also unknown to most of the country. But Mal Evans was a road manager for The Beatles. And they, at least, are well known.

You no longer have to be a celebrity to make money from memorabilia. Knowing and working with a celebrity is enough. A tangential relationship to fame can be a real earner in an increasingly celebrity-besotted art market, where auction houses flag off intrinsically worthless posters, T-shirts and doodles, given a value only because they came into fleeting contact with a star.

This week alone, former Spice Girl Geri Halliwell's dress sold for £41,520; Oddjob's killer bowler hat prop from the film Goldfinger fetched £61,750 and Elton John's matador stage costume sold for around £8,500.

David Lee, editor of Art Review, said: "The supply of great artworks is finite and the auction houses are having terrible trouble filling the gaps. First, they started selling photography, and now it's memorabilia."

Even some of those most closely associated with the

BY DAVID LISTER

lucrative world of celebrity auctions find aspects difficult to comprehend.

Desmond Llewellyn, who played Q in the Bond films, was at the Christie's sale of Bond items. He said: "I think it's fantastic, but these people are crazy."

He had on the same suit he wore in the movie, *The Living Daylights*, and added: "When I saw the prices that some things were getting, I was tempted to strip off and put it [the suit] up for auction."

Bernard Doherty of publicity company Laister Dickson acts for the Rolling Stones and was hired to promote Sotheby's sale of both the Mrs Evans notebook and assorted items of pop star clothing at the Hard Rock cafe - a clear sign of how traditional auction houses are using music industry personnel and venues to reach a new generation of buyers.

Mr Doherty said: "I find the clothing area a bit odd. In fact, it's weird. I don't understand why someone would want to buy Marc Bolan's jacket. It's not a work of art. But buying song lyrics or original acetates I can understand. They are not works of art, but they are a moment in history. 'Hey Jude' is a song that most people on the planet know. To think that someone was sitting in a café scribbling, and that person was Paul McCartney - there's nothing like it."

Mark Griffiths, reader in psychology at Nottingham Trent University, sees psychological reasons for the trend. "People want to buy into fame," he said. "And the quickest way to buy into fame is to be associated with fame. Owning Geri

Halliwell's dress gives you that differentiation from the rest. Having artefacts from famous people is perceived to give you status."

But Mr Griffiths recognises another trend surrounding celebrity auctions that has li-

tle to do with fan worship and ordinary people trying to raise their status. Chris Evans was involved in the bidding for Geri Halliwell's dress.

"You do get fame feeding off fame and publicity by association," says Mr Griffiths.

Indeed you do. The Lancashire couple that paid £11,500 for the 'Hey Jude' lyrics and assorted doodles in Mal Evans' notebook bought the notebook for their 21-year-old daughter.

She is Davinia Murphy, who

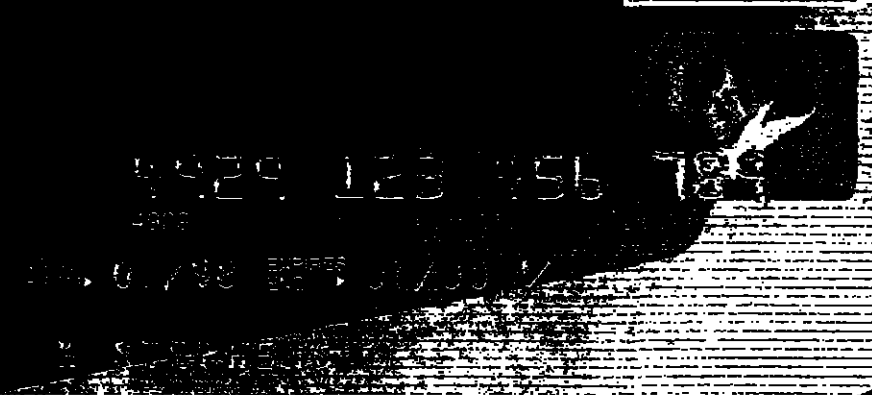
appears in the television soap *Hollyoaks*.

"I wanted to buy the notebook for her," says Alan Murphy, who owns a tissue paper factory. "because she plays the part of Jude in the television programme".

It's a long and winding road from Paul McCartney to a television soap actress who plays a character with the same name as a song title, but why look for logic in the inflated and over-hyped world of celebrity auctions?

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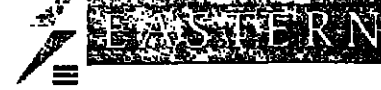
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THE PRICE IS WRONG

FAME IS fickle and so are celebrity auctions. Some of the biggest names can fail to reach the reserve price: ■ AN autographed pen donated by then-Prime Minister John Major failed to raise a bid at an Age Concern charity auction in 1994. Cilla Black's hankie raised a five and newsreader Trevor McDonald's tie £15. ■ TV personality Janet Street-Porter put up 65 of her frocks at Christie's. The punk gear and flouncy beaded creations by designers Zandra Rhodes and Vivienne Westwood raised £2,730. Janet expected £6,000. A Christie's spokeswoman said: "She has a style which possibly doesn't appeal to everyone."

■ Sotheby's tried the handwritten lyrics and musical score to James Brown's 1965 hit Papa's Got a Brand New Bag for £5,000. No bids. ■ Christie's estimated a couple of grand for a first-edition, life-size cardboard cut-out of the Spice Girls hawking Pepsi. No sale. ■ An England shirt worn by Roger Hunt in the 1966 World Cup Final was expected to net up to £50,000. But the highest bid at Sotheby's in London was £19,000. The shirt was withdrawn. ■ His 1966 team-mate George Cohen failed to find a buyer for his World Cup medal at £80,000 in Sotheby's this year. Mohamed al-Fayed, owner of Cohen's old club Fulham, bought it later.

2000 Bug 'army' needs conscripts

TONY BLAIR'S "Bugbuster" project, launched in a blaze of publicity to train an army of 20,000 computer experts to tackle the Millennium problem, at a cost of £26m, has hit its own bug.

It emerged last night that the scheme, intended to instruct bugshooters on how to deal with the effects of the change of date at the end of 1999, had so far trained just 26 people.

People are being offered grants of £1,300 each for computer training to tackle the bug through training and enterprise councils across the country. It was launched in March but the Department of Education and Employment which is running the programme said it really only got going in July.

"A lot of small firms were on holiday in August. Now we are

BY COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

in September, we will get more people joining and achieve our target in the next six months", said a spokesman.

Margaret Beckett, the Leader of the House, has overall responsibility for the Government's drive to tackle the Millennium Bug.

Robin Guenier, director of independent campaign group Taskforce 2000, called the entire Bugbuster scheme "ill-conceived, badly-administered and poorly-led. The whole thing is in disarray".

The cross-party Commons Public Accounts Committee warned in July that lives could be at risk. It reported that the NHS was failing to get to grips with the Millennium Bug.

TERENCE BLACKER

Are cats politically sensitive?
Almost certainly, yes

WEEKEND REVIEW, PAGE 5

Masked troops patrol Tirana as parliament moves against 'coup' leader

THE ALBANIAN parliament voted by an overwhelming majority yesterday to lift the immunity from prosecution of the opposition party leader, Sali Berisha. The move opens the way for his arrest on charges of trying to overthrow the government.

By PAUL WOOD
in Tirana

trolled the capital, Tirana, in armoured vehicles, and special forces soldiers joined extra police guards outside government buildings.

Security was stepped up for a "National Day of Protest" called by Mr Berisha for yes-

terday, but only a few thousand of his Democratic Party supporters gathered in Central Square in the capital and the event passed off peacefully.

Sources within the governing Socialist Party said that an arrest was not imminent, easing international fears that the opposition leader's detention could spark more rioting.

Earlier this week, armed rioters loyal to the Democratic Party seized the state television and parliament buildings and attacked the government's headquarters, sending the Prime Minister, Fatos Nano, briefly into hiding.

The vote in parliament signalled that the government is determined to press ahead with

legal moves against Mr Berisha in spite of intense pressure by Western governments.

Mr Berisha could face life imprisonment, or the death sentence, if he is convicted of organising what the authorities describe as an attempted coup.

His enemies are already writing his political obituary, saying that he gambled on the

government's inability to maintain order and that he lost when it managed to hang on to power, if only just.

At a news conference, Mr Berisha appeared stoical, saying he would continue to fight the government from jail if it was necessary.

"I am ready to accept any sacrifice," he said. "I am very

proud to face them in whatever position."

Parliament voted 108-0 to lift Mr Berisha's immunity. Forty-two delegates, including all those from Mr Berisha's Democratic Party, were absent. The Democrats won 28 of the 155 parliamentary seats in the June 1997 election but have rarely attended any sessions.

A joint Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe and Council of Europe delegation arrives in Tirana today. Diplomats said the focus of international efforts has switched from trying to avoid the arrest of Mr Berisha to putting in place an agreement between political parties to make any such move irrelevant.

Mexican massacre linked to cartel

THE KILLERS arrived before dawn, bursting into Fermín Castro's ranch compound near Ensenada in Baja California a few hours after his extended family had finished celebrating Mexican Independence Day. Brandishing AK-47s, they pulled everyone they could find from their beds - 21 people all told, including eight children and a pregnant woman - and forced them to lie face down on a concrete patio.

Then, systematically, they shot them all, the convulsing bodies piling on top of each other in a tight circle.

By the time the police arrived more than a hour later, the concrete was thick with coagulated blood and littered with mounds of cartridge cases. Overturned furniture and scattered piles of children's toys showed mute evidence of a brief, hopeless struggle.

Many of the adults were wearing blue pyjamas. Two of the children were in nappies.

Moans led police to one adult and a 12-year-old still alive in the heap of corpses. A police jet rushed them to hospital in Mexico City. A third survivor, a

By ANDREW GUMBEL
in Ensenada, Mexico

15-year-old girl, escaped unharmed because she hid under a bed. She was in hospital last night with severe shock. Armed guards surround her and police hope she may recover enough to be able to identify the attackers.

Neighbours who heard the automatic gunfire believed at first they must be some kind of Independence Day firework display.

Yesterday Baja California seemed stunned, numbed by the worst mass killing in its history.

The region, a narrow strip of land that adjoins the US state of California, has crime problems - notably cross-border traffic in drugs and illegal immigrants, with sudden bursts of random violence that invariably accompany such activities.

But the seaside town of Ensenada, 60 miles south of Tijuana and San Diego, is better known for its vineyards, fine beaches and the weekend daytrippers who come by boat or car from the US.



Soldiers guard the scene of the massacre of three families, including eight children, at a Mexican ranch

Jose Luis Camarillo/Reuters

"Ensenada did not deserve this," said the town's mayor, Manuel Montenegro Espinoza. "Nothing justified this act. It is something we have never seen before and must never allow to be repeated."

The massacre was an atrocity far beyond the standards of Mexican organised crime groups because of the deliberate killing of children.

Within two hours, army troops had surrounded the compound while local police and more specialised investi-

gators tried to make sense of the carnage within.

Suspicion immediately fell on possible links between 38-year-old Fermín Castro, the owner of the Vista al Mar ranch, and Tijuana's Arellano Felix cartel, which is believed to mastermind marijuana production and shipment in the region.

Castro has been the target of intense police investigation for a year.

One report said the gunmen tried to force Castro to reveal the number of a bank

safety deposit box in the United Arab Emirates where they suspected he was collecting a fat offshore account in hard currency.

As the story went, when Castro refused, his entire extended family paid the terrible price. Castro was not believed to have died instantly, but his name appeared on the list of the deceased within a few hours.

Law enforcement officials were cautious. "We cannot say one hundred per cent that there was a drugs trafficking

angle or that this was a settlement of scores. We just don't have enough information yet," said the state prosecutor for the northern part of Baja California, Marco Antonio de la Fuente Villarreal.

"What we can say is that we have various different leads. We are questioning a number of people who live near the ranch to try to harden up the motive for this lamentable act."

Whatever Castro's more underhand activities, he was a well-known figure around En-

senada, organising rodeos for special occasions and he was an enthusiastic breeder of horses. Many of his animals were grazing around the ranch when police arrived.

The most popular line of speculation was that Castro, pictured in newspapers as a round figure with a long drooping moustache, was involved in marijuana production and fell out with the Arellano brothers in Tijuana.

All four Arellanos have been in hiding since the assassina-

tion of a Catholic cardinal at Guadalajara airport in 1993. The cardinal is thought to have been mistakenly shot by an Arellano hit man who was aiming for a drug cartel rival.

Local officials seemed less preoccupied with the organised crime angle than with the possible impact on the all-important tourist trade.

The governor of Baja California, Hector Teran Teran, said the massacre at the ranch was "bound to have a negative effect".

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Despite the looming financial clouds, Brazilians would still rather samba than study share prices

Brazil reels from 'the vodka effect'

THE LATEST cover of the Brazilian news magazine *Exame* (Exam) carried a simple picture of a fried egg on a black background. "Estamos Fritos?" (Are We Fried?) it asked in bold red letters.

The magazine was referring to Brazil's current financial crisis, which has governments, financial institutions and investors jittery in the wake of the meltdowns in Asia and Russia.

Robert Rubin, US Treasury Secretary, said Brazil was the subject of "intense focus" throughout last week by the American administration, while the International Monetary Fund was mulling over what Brazil's Finance Minister, Pedro Malan, described as a "crisis prevention programme, not a rescue package".

Inside, *Exame* headlined its cover story with another question: "Will Bill save us?" President Clinton's remark last

By PHIL DAVISON
in Sao Paulo

week that he would support Brazil helped the recovery of the Sao Paulo stock exchange, the biggest in Latin America. It had just endured its largest drop in response to the Russian ruble crisis. "The vodka effect," papers here called it.

But less optimistic statements, warning of financial collapse in Brazil, notably the international investor George Soros's comment that this country was "in the eye of the storm", sent the stock exchange, the Bovespa, on a roller-coaster ride in the past few days.

Better-off Brazilians continued to move their money abroad throughout last week to the tune of up to \$1bn a day, even though they could get almost 50 per cent interest in Brazil since the government

upped rates a week ago to try to keep cash in the country. Few believed the rumours that the cash-strapped IMF would scrape together \$100bn to bail out struggling Latin American nations.

Complicating the crisis is the fact that Brazil faces general and presidential elections two weeks from tomorrow.

His critics say President Fernando Henrique Cardoso, running for a second term, is sweeping both problems and solutions under the carpet until the 4 October election, in which he is considered a certainty.

Whether or not that is true, Mr Cardoso is, oddly enough, cashing in on the crisis politically. His popularity soared in the week after the latest crisis, giving him 49 percentage points in the polls to 22 per cent for his nearest opponent, leftist former union leader Luiz Inacio "Lula" da Silva. Pollsters predict Mr Cardoso's support would constitute well over 50 per cent of valid votes cast on 4 October, the threshold for avoiding a second-round run-off.

"People just seem to think he's a better bet than Lula for handling the crisis," said Jose Fucs, executive editor of *Exame*. "It's a bit like Margaret Thatcher at her peak."

Mr Cardoso, 67, is a tall, suave, telegenic, multilingual intellectual and author educated at La Sorbonne. Mr da Silva, 52, a secondary school drop-out, former lathe operator and union leader, is a street-smart politician but has trouble articulating his policies, other than attacking those of the government, particularly on privatisation.

"Lula? For the love of God, he's ignorant. I'd prefer Fidel Castro," said Lourival Almeida, a taxi driver who, like nearly all Brazilians, expressed almost total uninterest yesterday in the crisis they consider, at least so far, as one affecting only wealthy speculators.

"Do you think our team took money to lose the final against France?" was his main concern. "Ronaldinho (little Ronaldo) should never have been on the pitch."

"For most Brazilians, this is not a crisis. Defeat in the World Cup was much worse. People were crying in the streets," said Mr Fucs.

"Most people here don't invest in stocks the way they do in the US or Britain. Businessmen are worried."

"People in debt are having big problems. But other people

are living their lives. People here believe in what we call 'jeitinho brasileiro' (the Brazilian way): that the world's not going to fall apart - that things may look bad but we can work it out."

"Look, in the middle of a so-called crisis, you have a privatisation worth nearly \$1bn," he said, referring to Thursday's sale of the Sao Paulo state energy company Bandeirante de Energia.

He noted that the Brazilian economy, with a GDP of \$600bn, is many times the size of Russia's, that US investors have tens of billions in Brazil and that the US exports around one bil-



President Cardoso: Likely to win a second term

lion dollars worth of goods here a month. "Yes, if Brazil went down, it would have major repercussions in the US, Europe and the world. But are we tried?"

"No, but we'll have to pay a price. Next year will be even tougher, with recession and possibly negative growth of 1 or 2 per cent. A country like Brazil just has to grow."

Commenting on the crisis, and Mr Cardoso's response to it, many Brazilians used a favourite local saying.

"He's pushing with the belly," they said, meaning he was stalling for time, putting off the most important decisions until after he is presumably re-elected.

Some economists predicted a devaluation of the currency, the real, by up to 10 per cent after the election, although the government strongly denies that will happen. Almost all said that Mr Cardoso would have to take tough fiscal measures to cut the budget deficit, currently a crushing 8 per cent of GDP.

Some warned of social upheaval if Mr Cardoso does not act soon to address Brazil's underlying problem, the vast rich-poor divide.

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Kohl reduces rival's lead

WITH A WEEK to go, Gerhard Schröder's lead over Helmut Kohl in the German election race dropped yesterday to the narrowest yet, and his advantage over the Chancellor in personal popularity is also shrinking.

According to a poll conducted last week by the Electoral Research group, Mr Schröder's Social Democrats have dropped below 40 per cent for the first time since he was selected as the candidate for chancellor earlier this year. The Social Democrats are now just two points ahead.

Mr Schröder may be experiencing the beginnings of disenchantment. Previously undecided voters seem to be heading back to the Kohl camp, driven by confusion over the challenger's platform. Though Mr Schröder is still clearly the more popular of the two, that gap is also closing.

Never the less, by saying almost nothing, Mr Schröder has avoided the banana skins littering his opponents' path. A

By IMRE KARACS
in Hamburg

gaffe by Claudia Nolte, Mr Kohl's family minister, has been seized upon by the Social Democrats as evidence of duplicity. Ms Nolte had let it slip that raising VAT might not be as bad an idea as her party colleagues maintain.

She was severely reprimanded by the Chancellor but the incident left lasting damage, inviting opposition charges that Mr Kohl was preparing a "tax lie". The government has committed not to raise taxes, but it accuses the Social Democrats of harbouring such ideas.

To deflect attention from that outcry, Mr Kohl promised to tighten a recently passed law authorising the electronic surveillance of suspected criminals. But the Chancellor had omitted to consult his junior coalition partners, the Free Democrats, who refuse to sanction further restrictions on civil liberties.

Mahathir told to go

ANWAR IBRAHIM, the sacked Malaysian minister, called on his former friend and mentor, Mahathir Mohamed, to resign as Prime Minister yesterday in a heightening of the country's political drama.

Since being fired a fortnight ago, Mr Anwar has addressed audiences across Malaysia with his message of political reform, but this was the first time he demanded Dr Mahathir's resignation. "I tolled for him night and day. I never challenged him. I was afraid to stand up to

By RICHARD LLOYD PARRY
in Kota Bharu, Malaysia

him." Mr Anwar told a crowd of 3,000 near the town of Kuala Trengganu. "But now I'm fighting him. I would like to ask him to step down."

Mr Anwar has attracted consistently large audiences of Malaysians, but the question is whether the momentum can be sustained after Mr Anwar's arrest, expected after the departure of the Queen at the end of her state visit on Wednesday.

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A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF
KAILASH SATYARTHI

IN A BASEMENT room in central Delhi under a large photograph of Gandhi with his eyes closed, Kailash Satyarthi, founder and chairman of the South Asian Coalition on Child Servitude, introduces his latest fans to the press - 18 children aged about 6 to 13, liberated from bonded labour in the Indian carpet industry.

They sit on benches facing the reporters and television crews, looking tired, huffed and very faintly curious. Five days beforehand, all 18 of them (and another seven who were spirited away by their employers before they could be reached) were effectively slaves, knotting carpets by hand in a village outside Mirzapur in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh.

India makes hundreds of millions of pounds in export earnings from the carpet trade

every year. The coalition believes at least 300,000 Indian children are forcibly engaged in the trade, with another 700,000 working in Nepal and Pakistan.

The boys had been brought 600 miles from their homes in Bihar two or three years ago. Many of their parents were lured with promises that their children would be paid, well looked after, go to school and be allowed regular reunions with their families. Some were simply abducted from the outskirts of a village by promises of sweets or movies.

Once in the grasp of the carpet-makers, all of the children were treated like slaves, forced to work 20 hours a day and viciously beaten if they cried or complained.

The father of one boy who succeeded in locating his son was beaten up and chased

away when he asked to be allowed to see him.

The conference was the culmination of an ordinary week in the life of Kailash Satyarthi and the coalition: a week of danger, drama, menace, skulduggery, brinkmanship, relief and gratitude.

Seven days earlier, plans for the raid were already well advanced. Eight parents have been brought from Bihar to take part, and are waiting in Mirzapur for instructions. They are under strict instructions to say nothing about the raid. If the carpet-makers are tipped off, the children may simply disappear.

In the evening, Mr Satyarthi has a long conversation with the father who was beaten up by the carpet-maker's goons. The father reveals he was threatened with death if he dared to return. Such threats



Kailash Satyarthi: Danger and relief are part of his work

are not empty: many carpet-makers carry guns.

The parents have been in the town for a week already, waiting for the local magistrate to give the planned raid his ap-

proval. Magistrates are legally obliged to carry out such raids, as the use of bonded child labour is a non-bailable criminal offence - but the political will is often missing.

Mr Satyarthi and his colleagues have become expert at cajoling the authorities into doing their duty. Without the involvement of the local magistrate and police, the children might be liberated, but would not be entitled to compensation (worth about £70) for their suffering.

The following day, although the coalition stubbornly refuses to tell the magistrate the location of the planned raid in advance - "secrecy is the most important thing," Mr Satyarthi says - the subdivisional magistrate finally agrees to the plan.

Early next morning, two Jeeps carrying parents, activists, armed police and an official from the magistrate's office set out and drive 35 miles to a village called Handya. At 11am the signal is given and the raid begins. As police and activists approach, a village woman screams a warning: thugs employed by the carpet-maker appear and

threaten to kill the raiders if they go into the huts where the children live and work. The police say nothing but stand their ground.

As often during raids, both a struggle and a violent debate ensues. Slowly and grudgingly the children are led out of the huts and handed over. It takes 90 minutes before the last child is released. The employer is nowhere to be found. According to one of the children, police helped him to get away - thus avoiding a trial and lengthy prison term - after he paid a large bribe.

Later that night, children, parents and activists are driven back to Mirzapur. They are given a police escort in case the owner of the sweatshop should decide to try to grab them back.

In the morning, village officials in Handya finally issue the vital "release certificates" without which the children cannot receive compensation. Later, four coalition activists,

five parents and eighteen children board a third-class stopping train to Delhi. Nearly a full day later, they finally arrive.

At Mukti Ashram, the coalition's hostel and rehabilitation centre in Delhi, Mr Satyarthi briefs six children who have already been in the hostel for some months on how to help the new arrivals relax and adjust to their new surroundings. "It's impossible for the children to digest that someone is really helping them," he says. "The parents, too, are convinced that anyone who approaches them is only interested in exploiting them."

The freed children meet the press. At the start, Mr Satyarthi has to explain to them what it all means. "None of them knew what a newspaper was," he says afterwards. "Only three of them had ever seen a photograph of themselves, and that was only because they had seen one the previous day."

PETER POPHAM

Bangladeshi feminist goes into hiding

THE BANGLADESHI feminist author Taslima Nasreen, whose return to her home country earlier this week provoked the wrath of Islamic fundamentalists, has gone into hiding.

After four years in exile, she flew back to flood-ravaged Bangladesh with her mother, Eid-ul-Ara Begum, who had been having cancer treatment in New York. According to a source in the capital, Dhaka, who knows the author well, Ms Nasreen's mother has been given only a few months to live and Ms Nasreen chose to risk the fanatics' ire to be with her.

Crowds of angry Islamists are expected to pour out of the mosques today to shout slogans denouncing the doctor-turned-writer and demanding her death.

Ms Nasreen, 36, originally provoked their anger with a series of newspaper columns that had a massive following among Bengali women, urging them to assert their rights. In her novel *Lajja* (Shame) she attacked Muslim intolerance of Bangladesh's Hindu minority, intolerance which had resulted in the demolition of Hindu temples in tit-for-tat revenge after the demolition of a mosque in India.

The book was banned by the government of Khaleda Zia after mass demonstrations and demands for Ms Nasreen's death.

However, it was not her writings but a comment she allegedly made to an Indian journalist that forced her to flee. An Indian newspaper reported her as saying that the Koran should be rewritten. Ms Nasreen denied she had said any such thing but, in the ensuing hue and cry, Islamists offered 200,000 takas (£3,000) to anyone who killed her, and she was forced to leave the country. She was welcomed in Sweden.

One motive for her return, according to a friend, is that she was homesick. "She enjoyed visiting other countries, speaking at seminars and so on. But ... she loves her country," the friend said. "Her feminist themes are old-fashioned in the West, but they are really radical for Bangladesh and she had a lot of fans."

Compared with Pakistan, where the Prime Minister Naw-

BY PETER POPHAM

az Sharif recently how-towed to Islamist groups by declaring that Islamic (Sharia) law would replace the present, largely British-derived secular code, in Bangladesh the secularists visibly have the upper hand.

It is rare, for example, to see women wearing veils. The oppression that women suffer is not so much explicitly Islamic in character as the common lot of women throughout the sub-continent. Ms Nasreen speaks eloquently to ordinary Bangladeshi housewives who, while saying their Islamic prayers five times a day, are not remotely in thrall to fundamentalist ideas.

In the preface to *Lajja*, Ms



Nasreen: Death threats from Muslim zealots

Nasreen wrote: "I detest fundamentalism and communalism ... The mullahs who would murder me will kill everything progressive in Bangladesh if they are allowed to prevail. It is my duty to protect my beautiful country from them, and I call on those who share my values to help me defend my right."

Ms Nasreen's next move may depend on the strength of feeling the fundamentalists are able to muster against her. Unlike the Khaleda Zia government, Bangladesh's present government, led by Sheikh Hasina, is liberal and secular in tendency.

"And now the country is busy coping with the floods," her friend said, "and many of the madrassas, the religious schools that are the hotbeds of fundamentalism, are closed or under water, so it may be a while before they can take action."

Taslima Nasreen may have timed her homecoming well.

IN BRIEF

Newspaper boss faces arrest

THE MANAGING director of Iran's only independent daily newspaper is flying home today from Malaysia to be arrested. Mohammad Mohsen Sazgara is not sure what the charge is, nor what punishment he faces. Thus, the second most popular newspaper in Iran, was shut down on Wednesday.

Snow threat to Kosovan refugees

SNOW HAS started falling in the Bjeshket mountains of Kosovo, bringing new fears for the safety of thousands of ethnic Albanian civilians hiding from Serbian security forces, the World Food Program said yesterday. WFP workers in the area have seen hundreds of displaced people living in the mountains.

'History train' to cross Europe

A TRAIN outlining the origins of culture and the development of Western civilisation is to travel from Athens for a three-month tour of 11 European cities, organisers said yesterday. Run by Artists Without Borders, a Greek non-profit group, the train is made up of six carriages representing various stages of Western culture.

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BUSINESS

Shell's profits warning wipes £1.8bn off shares

BRIEFING

BA links with Hong Kong airline

BRITISH AIRWAYS and American Airlines are expected to announce a link-up with Cathay Pacific on Monday morning. The link is likely also to involve the Australian flag-carrier, Qantas. BA has had a 25 per cent stake in Qantas since 1993 and already has code-sharing and joint marketing agreements with Qantas on routes between Australia and Europe.

The link with Hong Kong-based Cathay Pacific, widely leaked in recent weeks, would complement BA's existing code-sharing arrangement with Qantas, analysts said. "A loose code-sharing alliance with Cathay Pacific is unlikely to attract the attention of the regulators," said Keith McMullan, the editor of *Aviation Strategy* newsletter. The alliance would rival the six-airline Star Alliance led by Lufthansa of Germany. Other possible participants in a BA-led alliance cited in recent speculation have included Spain's Iberia and Japan Airlines.

Blue Circle in Asian buying spree

BLUE CIRCLE, the cement-making group, is planning a £200m acquisition spree in Malaysia and the Philippines despite experiencing a difficult first half in its Asian operations.

James London, the finance director (left), said the group was looking at a number of companies, and the economic turmoil in Asia had thrown up several opportunities. His comments came as Blue Circle reported a 7.6 per cent fall in interim profits to £131m. The fall was due to a first-quarter loss in the Canadian operation and a £6.4m hit from the strong pound. Profits in Malaysia and Singapore more than halved as the crisis savaged demand, the company said.

UK MONEY supply grew by less than expected last month, although experts said the underlying trend was still strong. M4, a broad measure of money supply, was static in August. The City had predicted a 0.5 per cent month-on-month increase. The aggregate data were distorted by currency outflows, and M4 lending to the private sector came in at £6.6bn, far higher than market expectations.

Meanwhile, the US House of Representatives rejected proposals to give the International Monetary Fund (IMF) an extra \$18bn. The Senate had approved the funds. A joint House-Senate committee will try to reach a compromise.

Japan places banks in state control

JAPAN YESTERDAY took a key step towards resolving the debt crisis in its banking system when politicians agreed to put the weakest banks - including the troubled Long-Term Credit Bank of Japan (LTCB) - under state control.

Smaller financial institutions could be closed down under proposals agreed by ministers and opposition leaders. Public funds will be used to help banks dispose of at least some of their bad debts, estimated to total 77 trillion yen (£350bn).

Analysts gave the move a cautious welcome as a step in the right direction, but warned that more needed to be done.

Keizo Obuchi, the Japanese Prime Minister, said: "I'm determined Japan won't be the source of a global financial meltdown. Restoring financial stability will quickly lead to a revival of the economy."

Mr Obuchi made key concessions to the opposition in his eagerness to agree concrete proposals in advance of next week's meeting with President Bill Clinton. In particular, he agreed to strip regulatory authority from the Ministry of Finance (MoF). The cosy relationship between the MoF and the banks has been blamed

for at least some of Japan's current difficulties.

The plans for bank reform were announced after the Japanese markets closed yesterday. However, the Nikkei finished the day up 123.96 points at 13,983.12 as rumours of an agreement swept the market.

Speculation about the solvency of Japan's banks, including major players such as LTCB, has contributed to recent negative market sentiment.

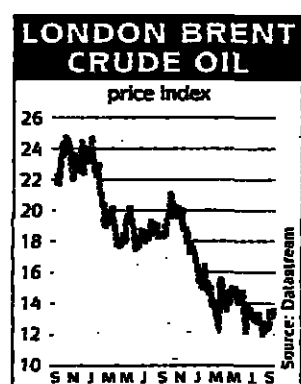
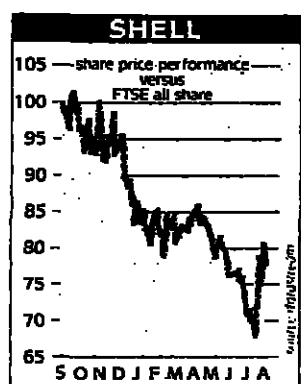
The yen strengthened to 131 to the dollar immediately after the announcement, up from 131.83 on Thursday night. But the early gains were later reversed on market fears that the plans might not be carried through.

James Montier, equity strategist at BT Alex Brown, said: "It all seems rather sketchy at the moment. After a number of false starts it's going to take a little bit more than this to win over the markets. Remember that parliament still needs to ratify the plan, and then Japan needs to go through with it."

Avimash Persaud, currency strategist at JP Morgan, said:

"In the short term it should help to revive lending, but I think in the long term it is somewhat questionable. Nationalising the banks is not a permanent solution."

Details of the agreement were not released, but politicians in Japan had earlier talked of creating a new government agency to buy up bad loans with public funds.



Royal Dutch Shell was 21 per cent per annum, a good 4 per cent above the Standard and Poors index.

Shell's difficulties have forced it into a major re-think. Earlier this month it announced plans for a merger of its European marketing and refining operations with those of Texaco. It has also announced an oil and gas swap with Occidental as well as a range of chemicals joint ventures and disposals.

Mr Tolster at SG Securities said: "We have probably seen the worst with Shell and this is a turning point."

Stephen O'Brien, chief executive of London First Centre, the capital's inward investment agency, commenting on the company's decision to close its Shell-Mex centre on the Strand, said the move was "highly regrettable". Nevertheless, he added, "this news must not detract from London's continuing success in attracting international investors".

Racal joint venture creates 400 jobs

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

RACAL, the electronics and telecom firm, yesterday linked up with French defence electronics group Thomson-CSF to bring high-tech communications systems to the battlefield.

The two companies are forming a joint venture to supply high-speed voice and data communications systems to the armed forces.

The venture, which will be based in Bracknell in Berkshire, is expected to create up to 400 new jobs in the UK.

Racal and Thomson are already bidding for a £300m contract to supply the local communications infrastructure for Bowman, the Ministry of Defence's multi-billion pound radio communications project.

Racal and Thomson calculate that opportunities to introduce similar systems in the US, Europe, the Middle East and Latin America mean the entire market is likely to be worth £1.5bn over the next five years.

"The formation of this new company is one of the first examples of true European collaboration in defence electronics," said Sir Ernest Harrison, chairman of Racal.

Thomson will contribute its intellectual property to the joint venture while both companies will commit some of their existing staff.

The new company is also expected to benefit from an arrangement between Thomson and Alcatel, the telecom equipment giant, which allows Thomson to adapt Alcatel's technology for military applications.

Investors gave the deal a cautious welcome, pushing up Racal shares 2p to 357.5p.

"It's an attractive deal but we would like to see some orders," said Mark Davies-Jones, an analyst at Salomon Smith Barney.

The two partners are likely to hear at the beginning of October whether they have won the Bowman contract.

However, they insisted the joint venture was not conditional on winning the deal.

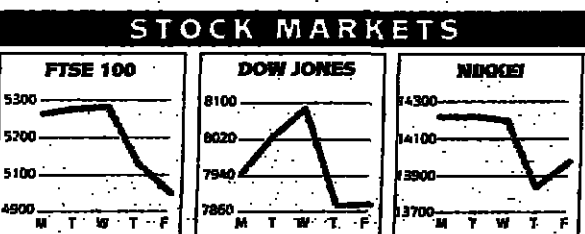
Racal and Thomson argue that their bid is superior because it is based on Asynchronous Transfer Mode switching technology, now being widely adopted by telecom companies around the globe.

By using Asynchronous Transfer Mode switching technology, the armed forces will be able to communicate over the public telecom network as well as their private systems.

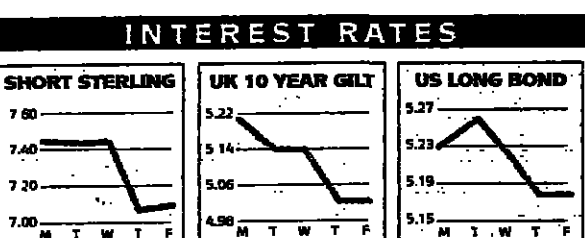
However, it is understood that Racal's bid is more expensive than British Aerospace's.



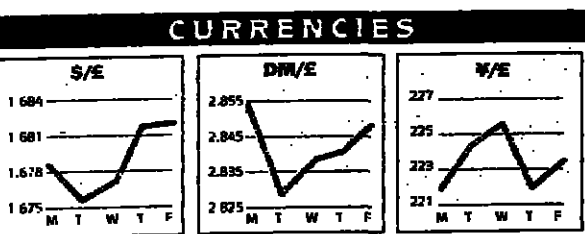
Japan's Prime Minister, Keizo Obuchi, preparing for his crucial speech to the Lower House yesterday which succeeded in breaking a stalemate and securing a deal to salvage the debt-ridden bank sector



Index	Close	Change	Change (%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Vol
FTSE 100	5055.80	-77.30	-1.51	6183.70	4382.80	3.86
FTSE 250	4546.20	-40.40	-0.88	5970.90	4428.30	4.44
FTSE 350	2425.90	-34.20	-1.39	2969.10	2141.80	3.96
FTSE All Share	2354.83	-32.11	-1.35	2886.52	2105.59	3.97
FTSE SmallCap	2061.00	-11.20	-0.54	2793.80	2044.80	4.03
FTSE Real Estate	1155.60	-3.80	-0.33	1512.10	1140.20	4.46
FTSE AIM	872.70	-1.40	-0.16	1146.90	862.80	1.47
FTSE EBLUC 100	842.88	-11.27	-1.32			
Dow Jones	7878.66	1.03	0.01	9367.84	6971.32	1.90
Nikkei	13983.12	123.96	0.89	18439.76	12664.74	1.08
Hang Seng	7445.96	-130.61	-1.72	15242.65	6544.79	5.48
Dax	4598.58	-70.93	-1.52	6217.83	3487.24	3.49



Index	3 month	1 year	2 year	10 year	30 year	Yr. Chg.
UK	7.44	0.16	7.06	0.44	5.02	-1.61
US	5.50	-0.22	5.28	-0.69	4.76	5.18
Japan	0.41	-0.17	0.46	-0.18	0.83	-1.33
Germany	3.48	0.18	3.57	-0.13	3.96	-1.57



Index	3 month	1 year	2 year	10 year	30 year	Yr. Chg.
Dollar	1.6823	-0.20c	1.6110			0.6207
D-Mark	2.8460	+0.71p	2.8693			0.530f
Yen	223.39	+0.95	196.33			121.85
E index	103.00	+0.40	100.60			105.70

Index	3 month	1 year	2 year	10 year	30 year	Yr. Chg.
Brent Oil (\$)	13.50	0.18	18.01			
Gold (\$)	290.85	-0.40	320.65			
Silver (\$)	5.00	0.05	4.63			

www.bloomberg.com/uk SOURCE: BLOOMBERG

Index	3 month	1 year	2 year	10 year	30 year	Yr. Chg.
Australia (\$)	2.7359					
Austria (schillings)	19.30					
Belgium (francs)	56.72					
Canada (\$)	2.4913					
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8100					
Denmark (krone)	10.54					
Finland (markka)	8.4601					
France (francs)	9.2062					
Germany (marks)	2.7539					
Greece (drachma)	473.54					
Hong Kong (\$)	12.56					
Ireland (pounds)	1.0948					
India (rupees)	65.66					
Israel (shekels)	5.9625					
Italy (lira)	2728					
Japan (yen)	217.81					
Malaysia (ringgits)	6.1279					
Malta (lira)	0.6137					

price, Allied Carpets said it had been approached by "more than one party" about a takeover bid.

However, it added that discussions were at a "very preliminary stage and that there can be no certainty that any formal proposal will be forthcoming".

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In a statement issued in response to a rise in its share

Allied Carpets leaps on takeover bid talk

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

ALLIED CARPETS was at the centre of takeover speculation last night after the troubled carpet retailer said it had received a number of bid approaches.

Shares in Allied Carpets, which have been pummeled by an accounting scandal and difficult trading conditions, rose 12.5p to 67p on the news.

In a statement issued in response to a rise in its share

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In a statement issued in response to a rise in its share

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

A LATE sell-off left the FTSE 100 down 77.3 points at 5,055.8, its lowest close this year. Trading turnover was more than 1.1 billion shares.

An uncertain New York offered no support, but the shock profits warning and job losses at Shell did most damage. Shell lost 18.7p (after 32.25p) to 336p, wiping £1.8bn from its value. Diageo, which reports next week, fell 49p to 532p, its lowest since it was created by the GrandMet/Guinness merger.

Derek Pain, page 18

NEW YORK

BLUE CHIPS were little changed at midday, with small caps seeing most action on a "triple witching" Friday. The Dow Jones index shrugged off news that a Congressional panel had voted to release a videotape of President Clinton's grand jury testimony on Monica Lewinsky.

The Dow was up six points at 7,879. It dipped slightly after the news of the panel's vote, but quickly recovered. Meanwhile, the small cap index was up 4 points, or 1.25 per cent.

TOKYO

THE NIKKEI average rose by 123.96 points, or 0.89 per cent, to 13,983.12 as public pension funds grabbed bargains after Thursday's sell-off, which left the index at its lowest close in more than 12 years.

With Japan in recession, half-year results due this month are unlikely to help. "We're going to see more earnings revisions, and they're all going to be lower," said Masayuki Nishina of New Japan Securities. The dollar was slightly firmer against the yen in late trade, but it stayed near 132.5 yen.

HONG KONG

THE HANG SENG index closed down 130.61 points at 7,445.96, brought back from earlier lows on hopes that the government may re-enter the market to prevent it falling below 7,200, dealers said.

HSBC, which accounts for a quarter of the index, fell 3.5 per cent at one point as investors fled European banks facing losses in emerging markets. Unemployment in the region rose to a 15-year high of 5 per cent between June and August.

FRANKFURT

INVESTORS FELT the 5 per cent Thursday dive was excessive, and yesterday the electronic Xetra DAX was up 3 per cent in early trade. But it closed down 5.66 points at 4,623.37 on option expiries. The DAX 30 index closed down 70.9 at 4,598.6.

Daimler-Benz shares fell ahead of a vote on its \$40bn merger with Chrysler. Chrysler shareholders yesterday quickly approved the acquisition by Daimler, but Daimler shareholders were still deliberating after seven hours.

There's still a chance to stop the rot

SO IT SEEMS we are not going to get a co-ordinated cut in interest rates from the G7 countries after all. The only surprising thing about this admission from Alan Greenspan and other central bankers this week is that the markets should ever have believed it likely, or even remotely possible, in the first place.

Yet the effect of the US Federal Reserve Board chairman's words on the markets was devastating. Suddenly it seemed that the one policy response that would put a convincing floor under Western equities had been ruled out.

Is this a fair assessment? Yes and no, seems to be the answer. Yes, in the sense that the crisis in the international economy demands immediate action, and no, in that there is still a chance, albeit a remote one, that central bankers might be sufficiently alert to take it.

The first thing to be clear about is that, while Mr Greenspan ruled out any thought of co-ordinated cuts, he didn't say the Fed itself would not cut. No central banker would allow himself (or very occasionally herself) to be dragged into cutting interest rates unless they thought there was a significant



JEREMY WARNER

There's lots of talk about the financial crisis, but nobody is addressing the immediate problem

risk to their own domestic economies.

There appears to be no immediate necessity for a cut in Eurozone right now, as Hans Tietmeyer, the President of the Bundesbank, has made plain. In Germany and France, short-term rates are already as low as they sensibly can be given the need for rates across

Europe to converge in preparation for the single currency.

In Japan rates have been shaved to a level where they can hardly fall any further, and in Canada rates cannot be cut while the currency remains under such pressure.

In other words, the only G7 countries where there might be a reasonable case for cutting rates are the US and the UK. Here, that case has already been acknowledged by the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee, which has said it realises that the crisis in the international economy might increase the risks of inflation falling below target.

The Prime Minister, who is admittedly not meant to have any say in interest rate decisions any more, is reportedly also throwing his weight behind demands for a cut.

Mr Greenspan has also hinted at lower rates in another speech now forgotten in the rout. "It is just not credible that the US can remain an oasis of prosperity unaffected by a world that is experiencing greatly increased stress," he said the other week. For that, read that the Fed will cut rates if the US economy shows signs of weakening, as un-

doubtedly it will. In summary, rates look set to fall by the end of the year, both in the US and the UK, if not the rest of Europe. The big question is whether this is going to be enough.

I would suggest that the need for action is much more urgent. Across the US, growth in corporate profits is slowing to a snail's pace. In the UK the position is already much worse. Manufacturing has been in recession for some months, and even in the service industries there is now a sense of despondency and gloom among the chief executives. Profit warnings and downgrades are multiplying with alarming speed. With the warning from Alcatel this week came evidence that continental Europe, which is meant to be on the upswing in the economic cycle, is not immune either.

I would not have argued the case for a UK rate cut a few months ago, but the Russian crisis has added a new dimension to the meltdown in emerging markets, and it should be acting as a wake-up call to policy makers everywhere.

For a while the crisis in the Far East seemed to be having a beneficial effect on the West, with cheap imports keeping inflation low and

the flight of capital to safety propelling stock markets to new highs.

But now, and perhaps inevitably, the crisis is beginning to strike at our own markets, too. Big Western losses in the Far East and Russia are causing a much more widely based risk-averse climate to arise, both among lenders and investors. We already see evidence of this in plunging equity values, and we are beginning to see it in the onset of what some bankers regard as a very serious credit crunch. There has been a general drying up of liquidity in all parts of the wholesale market. This has yet to hit ordinary overdrafts, but make no mistake, unless action is taken, and with dispatch, it will.

In itself, the fall in stock markets is going to have a significant negative impact on the real economy by making people feel less wealthy and causing a ripple-down effect into consumer spending, housing, construction and other industries.

This is particularly the case in the US, where most households are direct investors in the stock market. But it is also going to have its effect on savings markets through-out the developed world. One ex-

ample suffices - annuity rates once again hit a new record low this week. While the stock market was rising, this fall in yields did not matter so much as it was compensated for by prior growth in capital. With equities now in full retreat, it matters a lot, for it means that capital is being eroded at a time when returns are falling. Taking all this together, this is not a good time to become a pensioner.

Nobody yet knows quite how serious the full effect of all this is going to be, and of course central bankers are right to be cautious and to set some of the more alarmist talk about a global slump in the making in context.

But is it really worth taking the risk of inaction? If there were still very serious inflationary dangers in the system, it would be easy to argue that it was. But actually the balance of risk has moved sharply from the inflationary to the deflationary side in the last month. This requires a different mind set from that of central bankers, and a changed set of priorities. Unfortunately, and despite the ghastly lesson of Japan, which has lived with deflation for many years now, the

necessary evolution in thinking is proving remarkably slow.

There's lots of talk among world leaders and policy makers about how to respond to the crisis in the international economy. Most of it is reasonable enough; it's about persuading bankers to roll over their debt, it's about how to introduce greater stability into financial markets without imposing capital controls or otherwise interfering. And it is about improving the transparency of developing economies and bolstering their banking systems.

This is all well and good, but while we are learning the lessons of the crisis and devising suitable long-term remedies, nobody is addressing the immediate problem. There's still time to stop the rot. Even a quarter-point cut by the Fed might be enough to bolster sentiment, although in truth it might require more than that. In taking such action, we may never know whether it was really necessary. It is still possible that the US and European economies are strong enough to weather this storm without such action. But once again, is it really worth taking that risk?

Independent's £52m war chest

INDEPENDENT Newspapers, owner of *The Independent* and *Independent on Sunday*, is looking to make acquisitions in the UK regional press after selling its French outdoor advertising business to More Group for £495m (£52m).

Independent Newspapers said the disposal would allow further concentration of group resources on the company's core activities of newspapers and electronic media. Acquisitions in the UK regional press and Irish telephone are being actively explored.

Liam Healy, the chief executive of Independent Newspapers, said: "We believe that the recent uncertainty in world markets presents our group with prospects for growth and

BY OUR CITY STAFF

we are looking at acquisition opportunities."

Shares in newspaper companies have been badly hit by the recent stock market turmoil.

For More Group, Britain's biggest poster advertising company, there is an irony in the transaction as it will enable it to go head-to-head in France with JC Decaux, the French company it fought off in a takeover battle earlier this year.

JC Decaux is the market leader in France in outdoor advertising on street furniture such as bus shelters, while Sirocco, the company being bought by More Group, is the

number two in the sector. Sirocco tends to be concentrated on smaller towns, while Decaux is dominant in big cities.

Brendan Hopkins, the chief executive of Independent Newspapers (UK), said there had always been a question mark over the company's French interests as they did not obviously fit in with the group's main newspaper businesses in Europe. He hoped that the stock market would give the company credit for cashing in at a good price.

More Group was eventually acquired by Clear Channel of the United States after Decaux's offer was referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.



More Group buys Independent Newspapers' outdoor poster group to bolster its position in France

Shadow of Shell pulls Footsie to year's lowest close

THE PROFITS warning and job losses at Shell cast a deeply gloomy shadow over the stock market. With New York putting on a hesitant display, equities suffered another setback with Footsie ending 77.3 points down at 5,655.6, its lowest close this year. It had looked as though the index would hold its fall to around 40, but a sudden rush of selling at the close dashed that hope.

A relatively volatile witching hour, when futures and options expire, did provide a short-lived splash of sunshine, with Footsie achieving an early 19.3 gain. Trading was heavy at 1.1 billion shares, underlining fears that some investors are being panicked into selling by the fallout which has occurred since Footsie hit its 6,179 peak in July.

There is little doubt institutions are holding on to their portfolios. They are, indeed, often topping them up. But small shareholders are proving less resolute.

However, the late activity

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

ies after steep slides this week. They included British Steel (1.75p to 97p) and Bass (19p to 68.5p).

Diageo, the spirit behemoth, had a torrid session, slumping 49p to 532p, its lowest since it was created by the merger of GrandMet and Guinness. Maiden figures are due next week, and they are unlikely to be a cause for celebration. The Asian turmoil and the downturn in Latin America, plus the strong pound, are perfectly designed to make life uncomfortable for such a group, and year's profits are likely to be £1.85bn against £1.93bn.

TeleWest Communications, the cable group due to join Footsie on Monday, had appeared in the mood to resist the downturn. But after moving ahead recently the shares slipped 12.5p to 157p as it became apparent that around 4.7 per cent of the capital, 100 million shares, was to be sold by Vivendi of France. The French group was a shareholder in General Cable, acquired by TeleWest.

Rumours that Coca-Cola of the US was contemplating buying as stake in Coca-Cola Beverages, which came to market in July, prompted a 13.5p sparkle to 181.5p.

Halifax, the former building society, dipped 38.5p to 735p on fears that it was launching a price war. Woolwich, off 11p at 340p, was also hit and had to contend with Panmure Gordon sell advice.

Asda fell 5p to 169.5p as it prepared to join the sales war

which seems to be breaking out. Already J Sainsbury has announced what are called "promotional initiatives". Sainsbury, after Thursday's fall, rallied 19.5p to 545p.

Perceived defensive shares, such as National Power, up 12p to 553p, and British Energy, up 26p to 580p, managed to resist the gloom. Nycomed, the health group, put on 11p to 351p after Salomon Smith Barney suggested a 540p target price.

It has been a poor week for Imperial Chemical Industries although the shares managed to hold a 1p gain at 501p. ABN Amro believes they are still overvalued and suggests disposals are needed to bolster the balance sheet.

The takeover approaches to Allied Carpets prompted a 12.5p roll-out to 67p; Leslie Wise, after selling its garment operations for £2.8m, firmed 2.25p to 10p.

Tullow Oil, down 3p at 71p, and Dana Petroleum, 0.5p to 7.75p, were hit by the difficulties at MMI Stockbrokers, which

IT COULD all be happening for Emerald Energy, for so long one of the market's most speculative stocks.

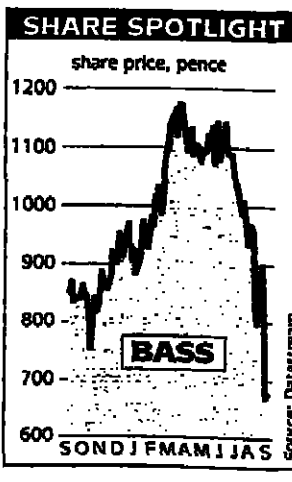
The chairman, Iain Alexander, said the group may start testing its Giga-gate well structure in Colombia next week, and there is talk of a 1 billion barrel strike. However, Mr Alexander said: "We have no firm numbers to put out." The shares rose 0.75p to 8.75p on a 13 million turnover; they hit a 10p peak in February.

has been suspended from trading until further notice. Buying by Salomon inspired recruitment group Robert Walters 5p to 815p. Walters has agreed a US bid, but rival PSD has built a modest stake largely through Salomon.

Cookson, the engineer, managed a 1p gain to 119.5p despite a Merrill Lynch downgrading, with this year's profits estimate cut £13m to £158m. One of the day's best performers was FI, the computer group. Following a five-for-one bonus issue the slimline shares gained 19p to 305.5p.

IAF, an odd-mix of a group concentrating on aviation, property and energy, rose 7p to 99.5p. Greig Middleton made bullish noises: it expects profits this year to reach £4m (against £3.6m) and move to £4.5m next year.

SEAQ VOLUME: 1,070 million
SEAQ TRADES: 75,500
GILT INDEX: 6/4



SHARE SPOTLIGHT

share price, pence

SONDIFMAMJJAS

Source: Datastream

COMPANY RESULTS

Name Turnover (£) Pre-tax (£) EPS Dividend Pay day X-div

Wm Morris (1) 1,082m (1.18m) 11.4p (8.2p) 4.85p (4.85p) 23.11.98 28.09.98

Domestic Group (2) 154.6m (135.1m) 7.4m (8.1m) 9.1p (10.8p) 3.35p (3.35p) 03.09.98

Go-Ahead (3) 414.25m (363.78m) 36.5m (21.5m) 52.5p (32.7p) 10.0p (8.0p) 35.11.98 28.09.98

Hammerson International (4) 1,125m (8.44m) 1,342m (0.97m) 4.3p (3.9p) 0.9p (0.9p) 18.12.98 28.09.98

Landis Investment (5) 4.91m (6.40m) 0.452m (1.11m) 1.42p (1.1p) 1.75p (1.75p) 31.10.98 28.09.98

St James's Place (6) - (-) 34.3m (13.6m) 5.4p (2.8p) 0.75p (0.75p) 16.10.98 28.09.98

(1) - Final (2) - Interim (3) - Quarterly (4) - Final (5) - Split Period (6) - Nine Months

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IN BRIEF

MMI suspended from trading

MONEY MARKETS International, the Dublin stock-broking firm whose main corporate client is oil minor Dana International, was yesterday suspended from trading on the London stock exchange.

The move followed a notification from the Irish central bank that it had sent officials to the firm because of liquidity problems. The broker is understood to have had difficulty financing clients' holdings in Dana, whose shares have fallen from 24p to 8p in recent weeks. The central bank has told MMI not to deal for a week without its permission.

Go Ahead profits

PROFITS at Go Ahead's rail businesses more than doubled in the same period during which punctuality at one of its two rail subsidiaries, Thames Trains, fell 8 per cent and triggered a £63.0m fine.

Figures for the year to 27 June showed that the Newcastle-based group's operating profit from rail rose to £10.73m from £4.70m. Rail passenger growth was 11 per cent. Profits from buses were flat. Group pre-tax profit was £36.9m, up 72 per cent. Go Ahead shares closed at 766p, up 39p.

St James's falls

ST JAMES'S PLACE Capital, the life insurer headed by Sir Mark Weinberg, saw its shares fall by 7 per cent to 267.5p yesterday. The fall came despite an 86 per cent rise in first-half pre-tax profits to £34.3m and 23 per cent growth in new business.

Smurfit unit sold

JEFFERSON SMURFIT, the Irish group, sold its paper-making unit, Condat, to CVC Capital Partners for £1215m (£190m). Condat will merge with Cartiere del Garda of Italy, also controlled by CVC. Jefferson Smurfit will own 17 per cent of Condat-Garda, which will be Europe's fifth-largest producer of coated fine paper.

This information is listed by sector, not by company. This is important to allow investors to define the comparative performance of their trusts relative to others.

Care is taken to ensure that the information provided by Bloomberg and the Information Group is accurate. If the information provided by Bloomberg for the Independent is correct, but neither Bloomberg, nor the Information Group, can guarantee the contents of the information, nor do they accept any responsibility for errors, inaccuracies, omissions or any inconsistency therein.

The two performing funds of each sector are highlighted in bold. All funds are more than one year old. Fund sizes taken on the first day of the previous month. Past performances are calculated on an after tax and illustrate the net income reinvested at Xd investment.

Funds that are Closed to New Business have been excluded.

*denotes a fund available through a Manager's PEP scheme

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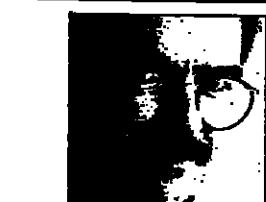
Endlessly round and round looking for a sign

AS A colleague discovered when a smartly dressed woman arrived at the urinal next to him and unzipped something not normally regarded as female. Kuala Lumpur has the capacity to surprise.

In a city where the ladyboys come out to play every night, underlying political and economic tension is belied by a showcase Commonwealth Games taking place in stadiums of extravagant size and design.

England's javelin thrower Mick Hill, who has competed all round the world for 15 years, arrived back from his first training session in the 100,000 capacity Bukit Jalil stadium starry-eyed. "I've never seen anything like it," he said. Which, as I recall, was the sentiment expressed by my colleague.

But the set-piece magnificence of facilities financed in more carefree



MIKE ROWBOTTOM

times is undermined by an infrastructure that is clearly faulty.

Taxi drivers attempting to navigate their way around the main complex, housing the athletics, swimming and hockey venues, are bemused by an unfinished road system full of baffling diversions and in-

adequately sign-posted re-routing. Until the other day, I had no idea what it must be like to be driven backwards down a motorway towards the glare of oncoming headlights. Now I do. So thank you for that, Kuala Lumpur.

The rail system, too, is a thing of shreds and patches, its ambitious sweeps across the city punctuated by gaps where the money has run out.

Inside the Sunway Lagoon ten-pin bowling venue Las Vegas meets Lakeside. A sign announced: "Pedestrian linkway to mono-rail station - Opening soon." Not soon enough, alas, for the 16th Commonwealth Games.

At least the information about that lack of provision was on display. Generally speaking, these games have demonstrated a conspicuous aversion to signs, as the tides of bemused

figures at the KL airport arrivals bore witness. I subsequently learned the reason for this mystifying absence of guidance - information for visitors to the games was apparently provided in the departures area.

But perhaps this problem with signs is a national characteristic, given the number of times hotel staff have burst into my room late at night and early in the morning, chanting the words "mini-bar! mini-bar!" with religious fervour. Ignored on my doorknob, the request "Please Do Not Disturb". Four little words, but they mean so much.

All this - well, probably not the business with the mini-bar but the general scene - is being scrutinised by a deputation from the organisers of the next games, which will be held four years hence in Manchester.

Judging by this week, we are

going to be seeing an awful lot of the Prime Minister when the Commonwealth gathers for its next sporting engagement. Malaysia's beleaguered Premier, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Muhammad, has made enough political capital out of these games to make Jacques Chirac's performance at this summer's World Cup appear self-effacing.

The Manchester people, buoyed by the Government's recent pledge of \$90m towards the capital costs, appear optimistic about their chances of maintaining the traditions of an occasion which have come to be known as the Friendly Games.

Kuala Lumpur, it must be said, has clearly succeeded in that respect, even though recent scenes at the squash courts - where Canada's Jonathan Power came on like John McEnroe during his final with Scot-

land's Peter Nicol - and the hockey field - where Canada (Do we begin to see a pattern emerging here?) came on like ice hockey players after Malaysia's disputed winner - have demonstrated unfriendliness in its purest form.

Throughout the week, as president of the Commonwealth Games Federation, it has fallen to Prince Edward to be the herald of friendliness, proffering his hand at a succession of sporting venues and seeking to keep those two B's - boredom and bemusement - from registering on his face.

At times, it cannot have been easy. The *Malay Mail* carried a picture of him in action on Tuesday: "Prince Edward takes time off to meet and chat with Australian lawn bowlers (left to right) Nicky Dunn, Tracey Stephens, Martin Stephens and

David Poletti." Martin Stephens has a cameraman in front of his face, pointing straight at the discomfited Royal visitor.

Edward's trip to see the ten-pin bowling competition, which took place just along the way from the Sesame Street children's entertainment area and the Kenny Rodgers' Roosters restaurant, was hardly more settling.

Afterwards, as he made his way through a gauntlet of blazered officials, he halted briefly in the entrance lobby beside a bank of aquariums containing giant koi carp and expressed a guardedly appreciative opinion of what he had just witnessed before moving on, his face set.

Behind him, the koi fish circled in their brightly-lit tanks, round and round and round.

Modahl seeks a quick return to normality

A four-year nightmare can be partially erased with a return to the podium today. By Mike Rowbottom

DIANE MODAHL steps on to the track at the Bukit Jalil stadium in Kuala Lumpur today seeking a title which, in her own mind, she has never truly lost - that of Commonwealth 800 metres champion.

The memories are still painfully clear of her traumatic recall from the last Commonwealth Games in Victoria - where she arrived to defend the title she had won four years earlier in Auckland - because of a positive drug finding.

Her subsequent success in overturning a four-year ban on appeal has been followed by a gruelling campaign to claim damages and lost earnings from the now-defunct British Athletic Federation.

If the administrators currently dealing with the BAF's affairs do not settle, Modahl - and her husband and coach, Vicente - are preparing for High Court action before Christmas, and again in the spring. The total costs to the administrators, should they lose, are estimated at £2.5m. A settlement figure is believed to be less than a quarter of that.

It is against this background that the 33-year-old from Sale has attempted to take part in these games as just another athlete. No chance.

"Four years is a long time for most people but for me, Victoria seems like yesterday," she said. "It is a very emotional time for me because the memories of 1994 are still

so vivid. My nightmare is continuing. But I think the BAF will have to settle because they can't afford a long court case."

If it is a difficult time for Modahl, it is equally stressful for her husband, who has been the strong shoulder on whom she has leaned throughout the last four years. In that time, the couple and their daughter, Imani, now two, have been forced to sell their semi-detached house in the Sale suburbs and stay temporarily with Diane's parents before moving into another house which, according to Vicente, is mortgaged to the hilt.

It is a saga which has already generated a book but it has not reached a conclusion. When it does, it is likely to end up on television as Granada TV have the rights to the story.

"When we got to Kuala Lumpur, Diane asked me how I felt about it," Vicente said. "I knew what she meant, because she still doesn't feel totally comfortable representing British athletics while the compensation claim is undecided."

"I have told her to try and enjoy it, to be light-hearted. I am trying to be calm and relaxed whenever I am with her. But it is very difficult. One wrong word from me can spark off negative memories for her or remind her of something, and she goes off for hours on her own."

"The television camera crews

from BBC and Sky were following us everywhere when we got to the warm-up area before the opening heats. Diane was beginning to get very tense, but I told her 'Ignore the cameras. Don't look at them. Just talk to me normally.'"

Normality has been hard enough for Modahl to achieve. Last season was ruined by glandular fever and a stress fracture, and her preparations for this year were hindered when she missed four weeks' training after pulling a hamstring in May.

At the European Championships last month, she narrowly missed making the final as one of the fastest losers. Since then, she has had the opportunity to work on sharpening up her speed and her form here has raised hopes that she can win a medal - 12 years after taking the 800m silver medal in Edinburgh.

"I am desperate to get on to the podium," she said after qualifying in a semi-final won by the world No 1 and overwhelming favourite, Maria Mutola. Her presence became possible when Mozambique joined the Commonwealth three years ago.

Even yesterday's progress was fought by Modahl. Before setting off for the track, she made a mad search of her room looking for two pairs of her spikes, which she still has not been able to find. "I was looking everywhere, under the bed, in the cupboards," she said. "I don't like to say it, but quite a few things have gone missing from our apartment in the games village. We have been told to lock our valuables away but you don't think about locking away your shoes." She does now - the old, spare spikes in which she ran yesterday will remain under lock and key in a suitcase.

The final will include not just Mutola but her cousin, Argentina Paulino, who won the other semi-final in a Commonwealth Games record of 2min 0.11sec. But Modahl is fit and well and looking forward to running.

"If she could get a medal," her husband said, "after all she has gone through, it will be an unbelievable achievement. Because there is no other athlete who has gone through what she has."



Diane Modahl finishes second in her heat yesterday to qualify for today's 800m final in the Commonwealth Games

Allsport

Spinning out breakfast with a monster on the sofa

IN THESE media-driven times, when spin is seductive much more than the minor miracle which David Beckham is in the habit of producing at crucial moments (although on Wednesday it had the unfortunate effect of inducing Barcelona to get up and walk), it was instructive to see Eric Hall in action this week, albeit at 6.15 in the morning.

His ostensible function on GMTV was to review the sports pages, but from the off he followed his own agenda, using his Monday slot to stoke the fires of the transfer saga involving his client, Tim Sherwood, provoking a furious reaction from the player's manager at Blackburn, Roy Hodgson, in the next day's papers.

Unrepentant, Hall turned the heat up a little more, saying that

CHRIS MAUME

SPORT ON TV



he'd "seriously-ish" been told, "exclusively-ish", that two other clubs were now in the chase as well. He topped off his five minutes by throwing in a few gratuitous insults on the subject of Glenn Hoddle's future, saying: "If he had half a brain - allegedly - or a whole brain, he'd go." And when the presenter said he'd like to have Hoddle in to respond, Hall spat: "I'd kick him." Nice man.

In *The Alex Ferguson Story* (ITV, Tuesday), the great man said he follows Sir Matt Busby's advice and never reads the papers (although he's twice shown in the programme doing just that). There was a feeling that the PR people had been all over it, although the likelihood is that Ferguson himself made sure he was not going to be stitched up. A programme like this about such a man is never going to reveal his essence.

Unlike, say the former editor of this newspaper, Rosie Boycott, who spawned a minor Frankenstein when she allowed cameras into her offices (the grim evidence was on Channel 4 last Sunday), Ferguson is far too canny to co-operate with anything other than a hagiography. And why shouldn't he? These days, when Hollywood has journal-

ists by the proverbial, and PR oils every public wheel, why should Ferguson allow a warts-and-all job when he can have a love-in? It takes a huge ego to run the risk of an unflattering portrait, and Ferguson is, after all, an ordinary bloke blessed with a certain talent.

So there are no *Reputations*-style disclosures here. The worst we discover is that he used to cheat at cards: "He once had five pontoons in a row and told me he wasn't cheating," his boyhood friend from Govan said. OK, so he is a bit of a control freak, but that comes with the job.

He actually spends most of the film singing rather badly, even though he is in the middle of a Champions' League quarter-final tie. There is an impressive Caledonian seriousness about him,

though. He refuses to socialise with the players, for example, while at one point, before the second leg against Monaco, he breaks off an interview to take a call from an old acquaintance who is bugging him for tickets. "Nah, they've all sold out 'til the end of the season, Hoppy. Call me at the start of next season." He puts the phone down, saying, "I haven't seen him for 20 years."

The film is cut by graphical passages, from Govan to Ibrox in this first part, with behind-the-scenes footage of the Monaco tie. There is a nice touch with the captain of the plane to Monaco announcing their flight path: "We'll be passing over Stoke City on our way past Wolverhampton Wanderers and West Bromwich Albion and then passing between Oxford United and

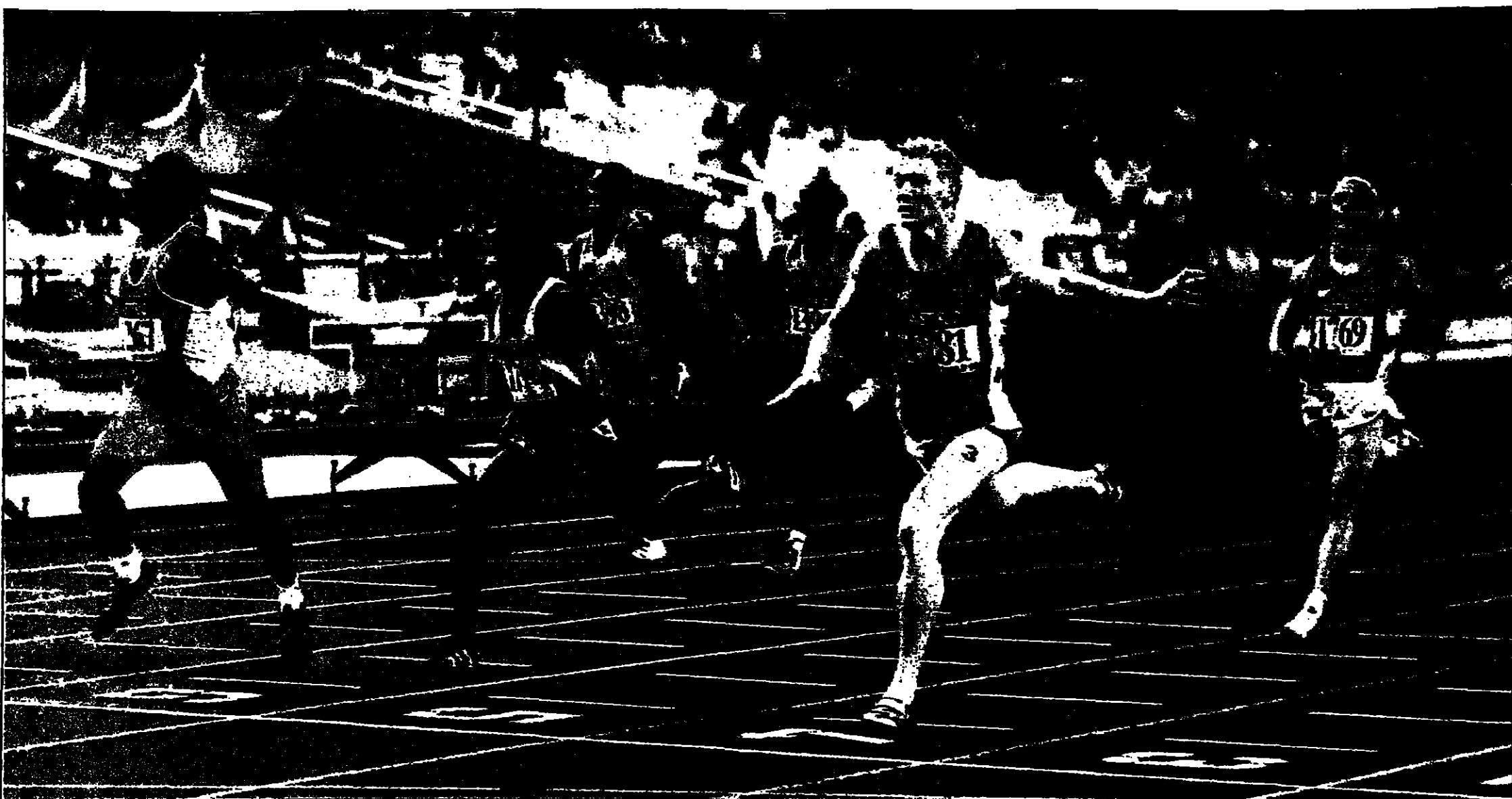
Reading." Though the makers would probably have wished it otherwise, it somehow makes for a better film that United lose the tie on away goals: it at least gives Fergie the luxury of displaying dignity in defeat.

It is clear he has extraordinary strength of character - when their teacher was getting married, Ferguson's class trekked to the church and, confronted by ushers reluctant to admit them, wee Fergie hissed: "It's our teacher" - and got them in (and he is there in the photograph, all cheeky-chappie). You would not want to cross him now, and you did not want to cross him then.

I was intending to spend lots of time watching the Commonwealth Games this week, and even stayed up all night on Tuesday hoping to catch the men's ten-pin bowling final. I did

drop off a couple of times for 39 winks, I admit, but I saw not a trace of submerged as it was under a wave of swimming and athletics heats. The beauty of events like the Commonwealth Games are their ability to offer something a bit different (the last Winter Olympics was great for that). Instead, the BBC played safe, even at an hour when surely only the competitors' families were watching. And me. To keep awake I rather shamefacedly amused myself with some of the splendid names appearing on the list. There was I U Manik, the Maldivian 100m record holder; Silas Holo of the Solomon Islands and Samsi Turay, the Sierra Leonean prison officer at Warrwood Scrubs. But best of all was the Anguillian sprinter with the Name of the Week. Step forward, Desiree Cocks.

Showdown on the track: Welshman defies back injury to add 400 metres gold to European and World Cup titles



Iwan Thomas (No 1781) pips his English rival, Mark Richardson (left), for gold in the 400 metres yesterday. Jamie Baulch (right), Thomas' Welsh team-mate, finished fourth

Cyclist thrown out by team

ROUND-UP

AUSTRALIA'S DEEPLY divided cycling team was torn apart yesterday when the world champion Lucy Tyler-Sharman was kicked out of the Games for criticising her coach.

The Chief de mission, Don Stockins, acted swiftly to expel Tyler-Sharman, who was one of three leading riders in conflict with head coach Charlie Walsh's methods.

She accused team officials of sabotaging her bike after both feet came out of the pedals during her semi-final on Thursday night.

The latest drama cost Tyler-Sharman, a former American rider who moved to Australia in 1991, her chance to ride for bronze in yesterday's finals.

"Yesterday, Lucy made a public statement criticising cycling section management and coaching staff, which is a clear violation of the team agreement signed by all athletes prior to them joining the team," Stockins said.

England claimed three gold and three silver medals in the 85-kilogram weightlifting division. Leon Griffin won two golds in the overall and clean and jerk sections and silver in the snatch. Stephen Ward had the snatch gold and silver in the other two sections.

Scotland's Margaret Letham and Joyce Lindores comfortably retained the women's pairs lawn bowls title, beating Namibia 31-8.

There was controversy in the boxing ring when Gary Jones, the English light-flyweight, went down 15-11 to local fighter Sapok Biki in their semi-final.

"I thought I won it and at the end of the day I've been robbed of a gold medal," Jones said. "He was nowhere near as good as me."

England's super-heavyweight Audley Harrison knocked out Australia's Justin Whitehead in the third round and faces Michael Macaque, of Mauritius, for the title.

Australia, the red-hot favourites, led three other seeded teams into the semi-finals of the netball tournament. The seven-time world champions, on target for the first-ever netball gold medal in the Games, remained unbeaten with a 66-29 drubbing of England.

The Australians play South Africa in today's semi-finals while New Zealand, ranked third in the world, play England.

South Africa have protested against the right of the Canadian gold medal winner Metodi Igrov to compete for the country in the shooting competition.

The South African protest said Igrov should be stripped of the gold he won in the men's individual rapid fire pistol and be replaced as winner by South Africa's silver medalist Allan McDonald.

The complaint is that Bulgarian-born Igrov had not fulfilled residency rules to qualify as a Canadian even though he has a passport.

Thomas applies supreme will

IF ANYONE even faintly doubted it, they know it now: Iwan Thomas is a championship racer par excellence. The 24-year-old Welshman yesterday added a Commonwealth 400 metres gold medal to the European and World Cup titles he has won in the space of a month, having overcome a back injury, which he revealed, had left him unable to walk after his second-round heat on Wednesday.

His victory was a blow for his domestic rival Mark Richardson, who had been desperate to make up for his defeat by the Welshman at the European Championships late in July.

Just three days after making the 6,000 miles flight from Johannesburg, the World Cup venue, Thomas completed his trial by ordeal with a time of 44.52 sec as Richardson, teeth clenched with effort, followed

ATHLETICS
BY MIKE ROWBOTTOM
in Kuala Lumpur

him home to take silver in 44.80. It was a demonstration of strength and endurance that was hard to credit. But even the rugged Welshman is human - as it became clear following his win. After his second-round heat a disc in his back began to give him such pain that he was unable to walk properly.

"I was in tears, because I wasn't going to be able to run," he said. Then he heard that Torben Hershborg, a Danish osteopath he knew, was in town and he sent out an SOS. "Torben arrived at the athletes' village at 11 that night, and he was still working on me at four the following morning," Thomas said. "I felt something go click - and then it was all right."

Twelve hours later he was chatting his way down the final straight with Welsh team-mate Jamie Baulch to qualify from his semi-final in 44.61. Perhaps, he isn't human after all.

Richardson could have been forgiven for lying on the floor, kicking his heels and screaming. Instead, he responded with customary dignity. "Obviously, I'm not pleased that I lost," he said. "But I feel I did myself justice in the final. Iwan is a great racer. I don't know how he had the strength to do what he did."

With his shirt hanging out of his shorts, and his baywire hair sticking up, Thomas looked even more like just William than ever as he stood contemplating his achievement. "It's not only about who has got the most ability, it's about believing in yourself."

While Richardson had to

settle for silver, two of his England team-mates, Judy Oakes and Larry Achike, produced gold in the shot and triple jump respectively.

Oakes, now 40, won her first Commonwealth medal in 1978, and this was her third gold in a career which has seen her make 87 international appearances. Oakes came close to expunging Gael Martin's drug-tainted Commonwealth Games record of 19.00m, reaching 18.83. All six of her throws went further than those of Myrtle Aenge, who took the silver for England.

"This is special for me because these are definitely my last Commonwealths," said Oakes, who admitted that she was feeling her age. The innocent comment of a Malaysian reporter probably didn't help her in that respect: "Judy," he asked, "How many grandchildren have you got?" Oakes had

visited a hairdresser here to have her fringe dyed red, white and blue. But something went wrong and the fringe came out gold. Ideal, as it turned out.

Achike, 23, set a new personal best and Commonwealth Games record of 17.10m as he made the most of an event lacking the injured world record-holder, Johnathan Edwards.

The 23-year-old has just enjoyed his first winter of training free from injury since winning the World Junior title four years ago. He paid tribute to the coach with whom he worked in Australia this year, Keith Connor, who won the Commonwealth triple jump title in the same year Oakes landed her first gold medal, 1982.

Oakes was not the only senior athlete citizen to earn a trip to the podium. At 38, and with her 11-year-old son watching proudly, Gowry Retchakan

won the first international medal of her career in what was her last race, taking the 400m hurdles silver behind Australia's Andrea Blackett in 55.25 sec, her best time for five years. A fine farewell, indeed.

There was silver, too, for England's hammer-thrower Mike Jones, who does his weight training during lunchtime breaks from his 50-hours-a-week as a warehouseman. The 35-year-old from Crawley practises on a seven by 10-foot concrete slab, which he persuaded a local farmer to let him lay in his field. "I told him he could use it to get his tractor in, and I could use it for throwing. The field is about 75m long, with strawberries and leeks at the top end."

Jones raised his personal best to 74.02m behind Stuart Rendell of Australia. If he carries on like this, the produce is set for a pounding.

In the women's 400m, Scotland's Allison Kurishley lowered her personal best to 50.71 sec to take silver ahead of England's Donna Fraser, who recorded 51.01.

Canada's Michael Smith failed in his attempt to equal the English great Daley Thompson's feat of three consecutive Commonwealth Games gold medals in the decathlon.

Smith finished the 10 events with 8,143 points, behind two younger Australians, Jagan Hames, who won with 8,490pts and Scott Ferrier, who took the silver with 8,307pts. He had aggravated a tendon injury when his pole broke during the warm-up for the pole vault.

However, Smith, who turned 31 two days ago, was gracious in defeat. "The two young Aussies competed brilliantly. I'll take my bronze medal with a smile on my face," he said.

England's coach is confident of success

ENGLAND LINE up today in the semi-finals of the Commonwealth Games men's competition in confident mood.

Barry Dancer, England's Australian coach, has no qualms about playing Australia. "Yes, I have a strong emotional tie, having played for Australia," he said, "but tomorrow it is England that matters."

"We are a better team and better prepared than when we lost to them in Utrecht in the

HOCKEY
BY BILL COLWILL

World Cup and they are in transition. I am confident we can overcome them in the midfield and win."

Dancer's confidence will be based on the steady improvement they have made since coming here. The midfield has worked well, with Russell Garcia having several outstanding

games and the 19-year-old Michael Johnson maturing with every outing, allowing Dancer to rest Justin Pickock for significant periods.

The big disappointment and the danger to a final place is the lack of goals from the strikers, with the exception of Ben Sharpe whose hat-trick in the final 3-2 pool win against Pakistan was brilliant. India play New Zealand in the second semi-final.

Maggie Souyave, the women's coach, was equally confident for their semi-final against India, who have never beaten England in competition. The return of the experienced Tina Cullen and Mandy Nicholson, who missed the World Cup through injury, has contributed significantly to England's improved form here in Malaysia.

"Things have gone very well here and I am very pleased with

our progress," Souyave said. "We need to convert a few more chances and maybe our corner drill will come off. It's now in our own hands."

Australia, the outstanding team here, play New Zealand in the other semi-final.

Meanwhile, Canada have offered an apology for the violent behaviour of their incensed men's team after they were denied a place in the semi-finals by the hosts, courtesy of a botty

contested last-gasp goal. The tournament director, Peter Crane, said a Canadian delegation had met him after the umpire had to be escorted off the pitch on Thursday.

"They made an unqualified apology and are willing to compensate for any damage caused by the players at the National Hockey Stadium," Crane said, in reference to a damaged changing room door. Canada needed only a draw

to go through and with only minutes to go the score was 1-1. Then the Canadian keeper kicked the ball clear, hitting a Malaysian player lying in the circle. The ball was returned and Malaysia scored as the Canadians appealed in vain to the Scottish umpire David Wallis.

At full-time, Peter Milkovitch, the Canada captain, and his players surrounded Wallis, appearing to push and abuse him as the Malaysians celebrated.

Heat turns

THE INDEPENDENT

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The Independent on Sunday has chartered an entire Eurostar train to take readers to Paris. To claim a free seat for you and a partner, simply collect four tokens from The Independent/The Independent on Sunday and enter. Winners will be able to spend a weekend (or a week-long) break in the French capital (the choice of return journey is yours). There are no losers: unsuccessful applicants will be entitled to discounts of up to £50 on travel to Paris or Brussels.

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TOKEN
THE INDEPENDENT

Terms and Conditions: Entrants must be 18 or over. Prize tickets available for travel on Eurostar only. Winners will depart from London Waterloo International at 10.55am or Ashford International, Kent at 11.55am local time on Friday 4 December 1998 on The Independent Charter Train and will be allocated return tickets according to the date requested on their entry form on a Eurostar scheduled Standard Class service, subject to availability. If a booking is cancelled by a prize winner no alternative tickets will be issued. Eurostar tickets are not transferable or exchangeable for any form of cash or credit alternative. The closing date by which all entries must be received is Friday 25th September. The prize winners and runners up will be notified by Monday 5th October.

The prize winners will receive their travel details by 30th October 1998. Each winner and guest must travel together on the same train and on the same date (both outward and return journeys). Prize winners will receive their tickets by 27 November 1998. No changes can be made to bookings by prize winners. Prize winners will be responsible for their own connecting transportation to London Waterloo International, accommodation, insurance, and must comply with all relevant customs and immigration regulations. Eurostar and The Independent will not be liable for passengers failing to make the departure times given in their tickets. Eurostar conditions of carriage apply to all passengers. Copies are available through Eurostar sales points. Eurostar (U.K.) Limited and Independent Newspapers shall not be liable

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Independent, any London and Continental Railways Limited Company, their agents and members of their families and households are not eligible to enter. The Editor's decision is final. There is a limit of one entry per household each; application must include four tokens, including one from the Independent on Sunday. No purchase necessary. Missing tokens can be obtained by a request in writing, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope, specifying the tokens that you require. Photocopies, damaged or defaced tokens or application forms will not be accepted. Proof of posting will not confirm entry; we are not able to accept responsibility for items lost or damaged in the post. Promoter: The Independent.

TODAY

MEMORIAL IRISH ST
9.00 1m £113,000

TOMORROW

NATIONAL STAKES
12.00 1m £113,000

P - TODAY

NDRE (Group 1)
1.15 Value £30,000

ISLE

Interval 3.05 Oriel
shock Wanders 4.35 Pen

NOVICE HURDLE

1.15 Value £30,000

CHASE

1.15 Value £30,000

NEWBURY

2.00: Judged by the style of his
fin at Sandown last Tuesday,
SUNLEY SENSE is over his
penalties so is taken to reverse
Chapoteau form with Man-
noble.

2.30: INDIANA LEGEND was
only half-length behind Golden
Silea in a Group One at
Donauville and the 31 pull looks
enough for a reversal.

3.00: GENEROUS LIBRA is
ready-made for the hat-trick
with just a 5lb penalty. He has
twice beaten home at Epsom
and should again take care of
Shadow and Supreme Sound.

3.30: RED RAMONA could be
the one to end Karas's win-
ning spell.

2.25: This looks to concern the
principals from a hot nursery at
the St Leger meeting. BLUE
MELODY carried top weight
into second there and holds the
narrow winner, Qazeehan, on
the revised terms.

2.55: It is hard to be certain
about the effect of the draw, but
a position near either rail is
probably an advantage. Almas
looks best of the high numbers,
while Indian Spark should also
go well. But ROYAL RESULT
looks a stand-out in his win in a
York handicap in a fast time. He
was unsuited by the run of the

HYPERION'S
TV TIPS

race last time and this shorter
trip and stronger gallop will suit.

3.25: Redbridge has a 4lb pen-
alty for his Leicester win and
Prince Of Denial and LAR-
GESSE, upgraded handicaps-
pers, have the scope to improve
past him.

4.05: Superior Premium and
Eastern Purple, the Fahy-
trained pair, command respect
despite cutting little ice in the
Sprint Cup at Haydock. Lone
Piper, the winner of a good
handicap at York last time, is
drawn in the right place. How-
ever, the resurgence of Geoff
Lewis's stable is encouraging for
REFERENDUM who has been
working with his old zest. The
four-year-old, narrowly beaten in
Group One company as a juvenile,
is potentially thrown in.

4.40: This centres on two horses
already successful at the
meeting and well in under their
penalties. Jay-Owe-Two was
probably an advantage. Almas
looks best of the high numbers,
while Indian Spark should also
go well. But ROYAL RESULT
looks a stand-out in his win in a
York handicap in a fast time. He
was unsuited by the run of the

AYR

HYPERION

4.05 REFERENDUM (map)

4.40 Master Beveled

5.10 Mthak

3.25 Largesse

GOING: Good to Soft (Soft in places).

STALLS: Straight course - stands side - outside.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: Any advantage in 405 race may be indicated by result of 2.55.

LEADING TRAINERS: M Johnston 23-75 (31%), B Hills 21-45 (22%), A Bailey 14-36 (24%), M J Ridd 12-36 (27%).

LEADING JOCKEYS: J Weaver 31-72 (28%), K Darby 30-75 (24%), J Fortune 19-37 (23%), D Holland 18-36 (24%).

FAVOURITES: 2.25: Redbridge (5), 3.25: Eastern Purple (5), 4.05: Superior Premium (5), 4.40: Lone Piper (5), 5.10: Mthak (5).

BLINDERS FIRST TIME: Darius (405), White Heart (405), Ed Knight (405), Ashleigh Baker (505), M J Ridd (505).

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Davies down as Europe stumble

WHEN THE Ryder Cup was staged at Muirfield Village in 1987, Jack Nicklaus, the American captain, had to urge the local public to support the home team in both greater numbers and volume for the final two days. For the women's version of the transatlantic competition, the locals were matched by Britons and Swedes on the first tee and the opening European pairing of Laura Davies and Trish Johnson received a bigger cheer than their opponents.

But it did not take long for the home supporters to make themselves known both visibly and audibly as the Americans took a 3-1 lead after the morning foursomes. Europe's only victors were the pairing of world No 1 Annika Sorenstam and Catriona Matthew. Birdie putts from Sorenstam put them three up after six holes against Donna Andrews and Tammie Green and the pair held on to win 3 and 2.

"I have never been as nervous as on the first tee," said Matthew, who produced fine performances in the three Curtis Cups she played as an amateur. "Although it looks bleak overall, there is a long way to go."

Matthew was unfortunate not to be selected for the afternoon fourballs but both

GOLF
BY ANDY FARRELL
in Columbus, Ohio

Nilsson and Judy Rankin, the American skipper, elected to play all four of the players who had sat out the morning.

With the top two matches producing 3 and 1 wins for the Americans - Davies and Johnson doing well to extend their match against Dottie Pepper and Juli Inkster to the 17th - the only chance of a further half point came unexpectedly in the third match where Lisa Hackney and Lotta Neumann were three down with four to play against Kelly Robbins and Pat Hurst.

But the Americans fourputted the par-five 18th after hitting the green in two and then failed to get up and down from a bunker two holes later. At the last, Hurst hit the flag with her approach and after Hackney holed from five feet, Robbins followed her in from four feet to halve the hole in birdie-three and win by one hole.

If it was a gamble for European captain Pia Nilsson to pick Johnson for the opening match, it did not pay off. Affected more by her lack of practice than the stiff neck which had prevented her playing on Tuesday and Wednesday, Johnson missed



Europe's Alison Nicholas plays out of a bunker on the fourth hole at Muirfield Village yesterday

ALLSPORT

the green with her approach shots at the first, third and the par-three fourth as the Europeans went three down.

They also lost the fifth when Pepper hit her pitch to a foot and Davies, from the same position, saw hers run through the back. Davies and Johnson are both quick players and the Americans took their time to

slow the pace. They were still practising on the eighth green when Davies teed off at the ninth. "I didn't even know you weren't there," Davies said when the Americans finally arrived on the tee.

But another poor approach shot by Johnson left the European four down at the turn. Inkster found a pond with her

tee shot at the short 12th and a stream at the 14th but redeemed herself with a superb shot at the short 16th as Pepper holed the putt from seven feet to go dormie two up.

Davies sprayed her drive at the 17th into the trees and Johnson had to take a penalty drop before moving the ball only five feet and neither could

Davies get the ball out of the trees with their fourth. Davies, on the verge of tears, promptly conceded.

SOLHEIM CUP (Muirfield Village): US Europe (US scores first): Fourstones: D Pepper and J Inkster 3; Davies and Johnson 3 and 1; M Patton and B Burton 1; H Alfordson and A Nicholas 3 and 1; Neumann 1 hole; D Andrews and T Green lost to A Sorenstam and C Matthew 3 and 2. Fourstones results: United States 3 Europe 1.

Woosnam aims to end his drought

IAN WOOSNAM, without a European Tour win for 16 months, warned his rivals yesterday that his next victory speech is "due at any time".

Woosnam shot a second round 67 for a 36 holes aggregate of 135, seven under par, to lead the Lancome Trophy field by two strokes despite lacking confidence on the greens.

But as the 40-year-old Welsh-

man said later: "If I get my confidence back when I'm putting I don't think a victory is very far away. I had 30 putts today but it's getting better."

"I'm also hitting the ball from tee to green better than 99 per cent of the field here and I'm very keen to win again."

Woosnam, who leads by two from Collin Montgomerie, American Mark O'Meara, the

defending champion, 19-year-old Spanish amateur Sergio Garcia and Spanish professional Miguel Angel Jimenez, has won 28 European Tour events and 43 tournaments in all since he turned professional in 1976.

This year has been disappointing. Second place in the Heineken Classic in Australia in February and second again

at Loch Lomond in July have been his only consolations.

Woosnam, however, may find it difficult to hold off the challenge of Montgomerie, who needs only to finish in the first three on Sunday to go back to the top of the European Order of Merit.

Montgomerie, who shot 68 despite a prevalence to hook his drives, has been European

number one for the past five years and insists that finishing top for a sixth time is "not a priority".

But the competitive Scot will become very keen if he can overtake Lee Westwood and Darren Clarke, currently first and second in the money list.

Westwood is on 142, seven shots off the pace, while Clarke is an absentee this week.

While Woosnam and Montgomerie were stealing most of the attention Garcia, who does not intend to turn professional until after the US Masters next year, came home in 68 for a share of third place.

Garcia won the British Amateur championship this year and was also semi-finalist in the US Amateur and has already said he believes he can win.

Holyfield homes in on Bean

CHUBBY'S COMING home. Or as near as damn it. Tonight in Atlanta, Georgia, Evander Holyfield will show a different side of himself, a transformation as remarkable as that which saw an overweight kid from nearby Atlanta, Alabama, turn into one of the finest physical specimens on the planet.

The show's promoter, Don King, claims he will unveil "the new Evander Holyfield". The World Boxing Association and International Boxing Federation heavyweight championship defenses against the IBF mandatory contender Vaughn Bean, a fighter about whom the pundits have grown tired of asking "who?" and "why?". Nobody knew Bean when he challenged Michael Moorer for the IBF title in March 1997 and nobody knows him now.

Yet his presence has not harmed this promotion, for which Holyfield has taken a pay cut in order to fight on home

BOXING
BY GLEN LEACH

ground for the first time since November 1991. It is expected that tonight's crowd at the 42,000-seat Georgia Dome will be the second largest ever for a heavyweight title fight, although it will fall some way short of the 63,350 who attended the 1978 Muhammad Ali-Leon Spinks rematch in New Orleans. Atlanta's mayor, Bill Campbell, announced earlier this week that 24,000 tickets had been sold, and that the "walk-up" could take the gate close to 40,000.

Drawing the crowds is a real concern for Holyfield, whose last scheduled fight, in June, was cancelled ostensibly because the WBA mandatory challenger, Henry Akimwade, was reported to be suffering from Hepatitis B, although only 6,000 tickets had been "distrib-

uted" (note: not sold) for Madison Square Garden, New York. His previous outing, against Moorer in November 1997, is reputed to have lost \$10 million (\$600,000).

It is extremely unlikely that Bean will resort to biting Holyfield, the offence for which Tyson will be fined \$100,000 from the Nevada authorities who banned him this morning in Las Vegas. Bean's challenge to Moorer - which he lost on points - was a masterpiece of non-aggression instigated, says Bean, by Moorer promising "if you don't hit me, I won't hit you" whenever the fighters fell into clinches. Bean's eccentric promoter, the ever-shrill Butch Lewis, spoke for many when he asked: "And you didn't smack him?" Bean claims to have destroyed four videotapes of that fight - his one defeat against 32 wins - in his frustration.

At 35, 10 years older than his challenger from Chicago, Holy-

field claims to be looking for a grand finale to a remarkable career that has seen this former cruiserweight champion join all as the only heavyweight to win a world title three times. He also wants to retire as the only fighter twice to have held the unified heavyweight championship. But before he can meet his World Boxing Council counterpart, Lennox Lewis, Holyfield must record his 36th win in 39 fights, against Bean. He is 9-1 favourite. Justifiably.

Mike Tyson goes looking for work again with a lot more to explain to the men deciding his fate than why he hit Holyfield's ears. At the top of the list is why he allegedly attacked two men following a traffic accident last month.

The commission has only three options: approve Tyson, reject him or ask that he return later. If Tyson is rejected, he cannot apply again until 19 September, 1999.

Hester locates the right rhythm

CARL HESTER and the easy-going Maxwell produced a beautifully rhythmic and accurate test to win the Prix St Georges title at the British National Championships yesterday. The Olympic rider attained an excellent score of 72.14 per cent for a convincing victory.

Charlotte Edmunds, the 15-year-old daughter of Noel Edmunds, finished third on Torque of the Devil. Last month at Hickstead, Edmunds was on the Great Britain team that won their first-ever medal (a bronze) in the Junior European Championships.

Hester will miss next month's World Equestrian Games because selection has been based on overseas results and Legal Democrat, at present his top grand prix horse, was not available for recent meetings in Rotterdam and Saumur. He

EQUESTRIANISM
BY GENEVIEVE MURPHY

is likely to remind the selectors of his formidable talent by winning the Grand Prix Championship here tomorrow.

Three members of the World Games team (Richard Davison, Ernie Faurie and Ferdi Ellberg) took part in a training grand prix here yesterday. The fourth member, Sandy Phillips (the wife of Captain Mark Phillips) was absent because she was attending the funeral of her father-in-law.

BRITISH NATIONAL DRESSAGE CHAMPIONSHIPS (Hickstead, Norfolk): Dressage: International Prix St Georges: 1. Carl Hester (GB) 72.14; 2. Noel Edmunds (GB) 71.11; 3. Torque of the Devil (GB) 70.11; 4. G. Grappison (GB) 70.09; 5. Wessels (GB) 70.08; 6. R. Coles (GB) 70.07; 7. B. Blom (GB) 70.06; 8. P. Parrella (GB) 70.05; 9. J. Jordon (GB) 70.04; 10. D. Edmund (GB) 70.03; 11. R. Gosses (GB) 70.02; 12. V. Heston (GB) 70.01; 13. R. Heston (GB) 70.00; 14. R. Heston (GB) 69.99; 15. R. Heston (GB) 69.98; 16. R. Heston (GB) 69.97; 17. R. Heston (GB) 69.96; 18. R. Heston (GB) 69.95; 19. R. Heston (GB) 69.94; 20. R. Heston (GB) 69.93; 21. R. Heston (GB) 69.92; 22. R. Heston (GB) 69.91; 23. R. Heston (GB) 69.90; 24. R. Heston (GB) 69.89; 25. R. Heston (GB) 69.88; 26. R. Heston (GB) 69.87; 27. R. Heston (GB) 69.86; 28. R. Heston (GB) 69.85; 29. R. Heston (GB) 69.84; 30. R. Heston (GB) 69.83; 31. R. Heston (GB) 69.82; 32. R. Heston (GB) 69.81; 33. R. Heston (GB) 69.80; 34. R. Heston (GB) 69.79; 35. R. 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الرياض 19/9/98

County Championship: Rampant Leicestershire close in on their second crown in three seasons

Battered Surrey see title slipping

BLOOD SPORTS may be unpopular, but they have long been the norm in rural Leicestershire. Yesterday their cricketers brought that tradition into the urban theatre of The Oval as the carnage created by the batting of Ben Smith (204), Aftab Habib (114) and Paul Nixon (unbeaten on 101), was swiftly followed with a duck shot of lethal proportions.

In the space of four overs, Surrey's top three were back in the Pavilion before a run had been scored, a fourth following a few overs later before bad light prematurely ended the cruelly. Unless spite enters Surrey's thinking, and they declare six wickets down to deny Leicestershire the third bowling point that would clinch them the trophy in a drawn game, the visitors all but have the Championship sewn up.

If they were within 200 of Leicestershire's score they could risk that but, as it is, any such declaration now could be seen as bringing the game into



Double centurion Ben Smith of Leicestershire plays a cut as Surrey wicketkeeper Alec Stewart looks on at The Oval yesterday. *Allsport*

your opponents rack up 585 for 6, Leicestershire's highest score against Surrey - beating the 516 made here in 1989 - is not everyone's idea of therapy. When Surrey were finally put out of their misery in the field, they were clearly not prepared for the Leicestershire bowlers. Suddenly a pitch that had looked placid for two days began to sear, a condition superbly exploited by the high actions of Alan Mullaly and David Mills. First to strike was Mullaly. Powering in from the Vauxhall End he squared up the left-handed Mark Butcher, who

Two more years for ECB chief

BY MYLES HODGSON

LORD MACLAURIN of Knebworth was today re-appointed as chairman of the England and Wales Cricket Board for a further two years.

MacLaurin took over the post in January 1997, when the ECB replaced the Test and County Cricket Board as English cricket's governing body, and has presided over a dramatic period in the game's history.

He failed to persuade the counties to adopt a two-division county championship last year but has lobbied successfully for the Government to take home Test matches off the "protected" television events list - a decision which gives cricket the opportunity to negotiate a higher price for screening rights.

"I am very pleased to be continuing in this challenging role," MacLaurin said. "Already we have made considerable progress, although there is still a lot of work to be done."

MacLaurin's first duty will be to meet representatives of the counties and the MCC, who comprise the First Class Forum, to discuss the future structure of the game.

Crawley gives a batting master class

BY DEREK HODGSON
at Old Trafford

Lancashire 185 and 296-1 Hampshire 172

have surpassed since the war. This memorable innings, the last of the summer, taking him passed 1,800 runs, needs perspective. Fifteen wickets fell on the first day, on a pitch that was expected to turn. Lancashire failed to win a batting point but were able, on a drier

top, to claim full bowling points, although by the time Ian Austin had rattled through the tail, their lead over Hampshire had declined to 13.

So Lancashire re-appeared, 15 minutes before lunch, in aggressive mood and it was instantly apparent that Hampshire were in trouble. John Stephenson, who has a bruised foot, had to field for Alex Morris, nursing a groin. Nixon McLean, bowling off a short run, carried an ankle injury and had to hobble off leaving Lancashire's Mark Chilton to sub.

While Atherton ambled, Crawley launched into drives and cuts of such power and timing that Hampshire must have felt that they would have been pressed to contain him at full strength.

He reached his 50 off 80 balls, including a six off Raj Maru; his 100 was made out of 141 in the 36th over and included two more sixes, off Shaun Udal. The pavilion, and the members' sides, came as close to singing as you can get in a four-day game. It was heady stuff.

Even when he lost Atherton, caught at slip, he outbounced Lancashire's usual accelerator, Neil Fairbrother, lifting Dimitri Mascarenhas for two sixes and taking a third off Udal. He passed 150 in the 56th over and 200 in the 67th with the total on 282.

When sun stopped play, with three overs remaining, Crawley was 211 not out off 236 balls, including 23 fours

Wood takes a leaf out of the Boycott book

BY HENRY BLOFELD
at Hove

Sussex 129 and 91-4 Yorkshire 252

which may not be quite enough to take them past their Red Rose neighbours.

No praise can be too high for the way in which the 21-year-old Wood battled while making his fifth Championship 100 in his first full season. This was an innings built on an unshakable concentration, as his 339 minutes at the crease would suggest. He is a stocky young man and his whole being bristles with cheerful defiance.

It may be early days to say this, but Wood could become exactly the player England needs to give the middle order ballast. Thirty-five years ago, a young Yorkshireman made a cautious start to county cricket in the lower-middle order, basing his game on the reasonable philosophy that if you do not get out, you have a chance - his name was Geoffrey Boycott. Some player,

mecca and he played some attractive strokes off the back foot.

At 216, Silverwood drove at Mark Robinson, who again bowled beautifully without too much luck, and was brilliantly caught one-handed by Chris Adams diving far to his left at second slip.

Wood's 100 came with a force for three through mid-on off Jason Lewry. When his last two partners had been dismissed, Wood had faced 273 balls and hit 14 fours.

Sussex lost Toby Peirce in

CRICKET SCOREBOARD

Britannic Assurance Championship

Derbyshire v Middlesex

Derbyshire (Day 2 of 4): Middlesex (4 pts) are trailing Derbyshire (8 pts) by 150 runs with 3 second-innings wickets in hand

Derbyshire won toss

Middlesex - First Innings 195 (Smith 40-8)

Derbyshire - First Innings Overweight 135-8

First Innings Count

Runs 6s 4s Bbs Mins

S. Rollins c Brown b Johnson 51 0 1 137 156

L. Spence c Turner b Hewitt 30 0 3 89 121

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League eyes video aid for pro referees

THE PREMIER LEAGUE confirmed yesterday it hopes to become the first in the world to introduce full-time professional referees from the start of next season. It is also considering using video evidence during matches to clarify decisions over disputed goals.

Philip Don, the League referees' officer, said a small group of professional referees would be formed by next summer. "This is aimed at enabling the referee to do his job better, possibly without the pressure he has at the moment," he said.

Fifa, football's world governing body, has approved Premier League experiments with new technology and has been in regular consultation about the proposals.

Referees who currently officiate at Premier League matches have had to work their way from local football leagues to the top of the game, monitored along the way by the Football Association. Those at the top level of the game have been chosen for their experience and skill, but their rate is still not professional. Referees in the Premier League receive a £375 match fee and for most the job is a sideline activity alongside a conventional career.

When professional referees

BY NICK HARRIS

are introduced in England - officially the idea is still at the planning stage, but there is little doubt it will go ahead - they will be full-time employees, with salaries estimated at £40,000 to £50,000 a year. The positions will be offered in the first instance to the current batch of leading referees.

Paul Durkin, England's refereeing representative at the World Cup and with years of experience at the highest level, said yesterday: "I would be very interested to see what is on offer. Perhaps if we were full time we would have time to be physically and mentally better prepared."

Fifa has been cautious in the past about letting leagues use video evidence or technology to make refereeing decisions because it believes the authority of officials could be undermined. It is understood, however, that the Premier League has been given clearance to experiment with electronic equipment capable of settling goal-line disputes, although it is unlikely to be in place for the start of next season.

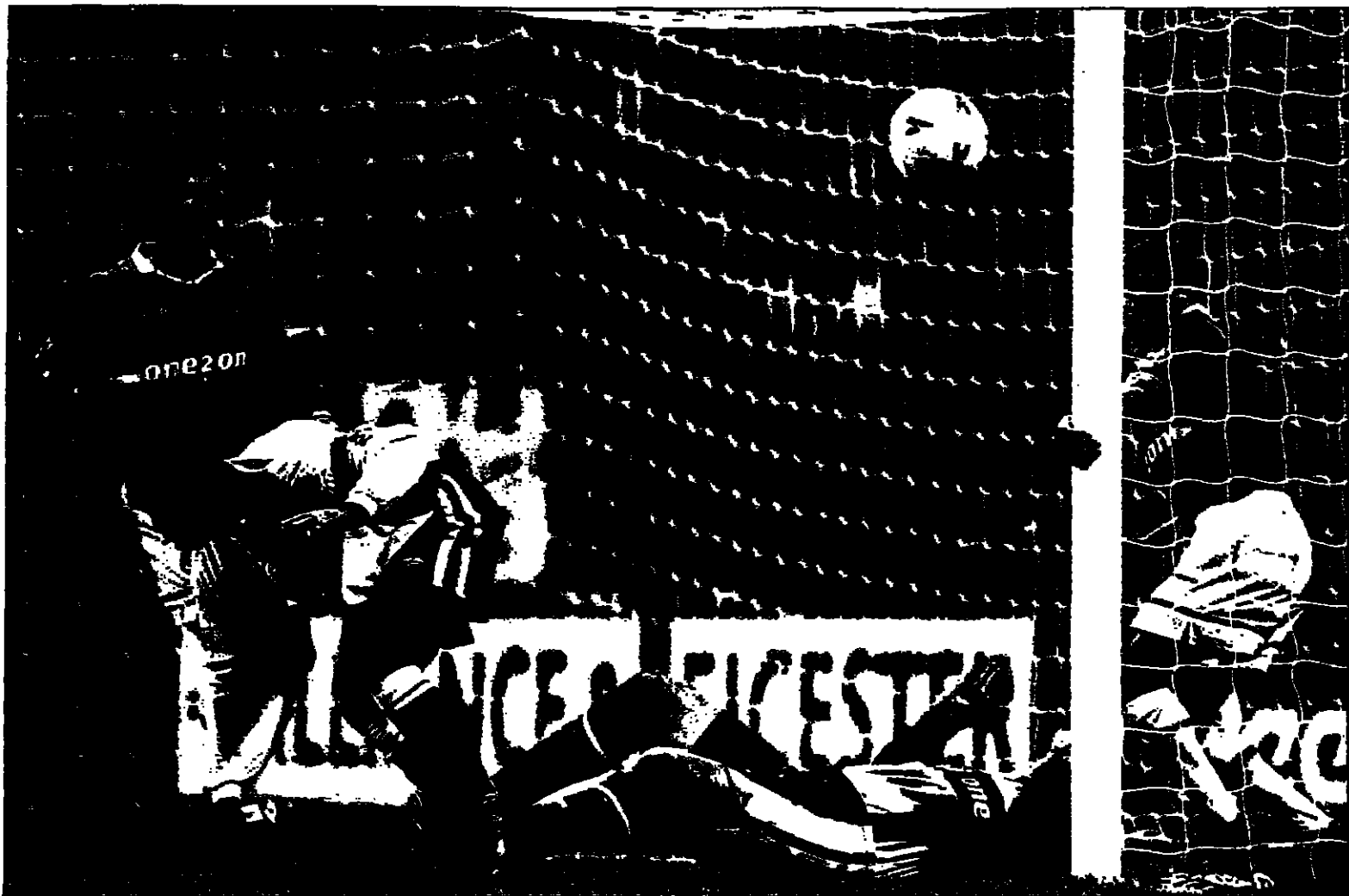
Durkin said: "I've got no objections at all. If the modern technology is going to make the referee's job easier, then

I'm all for it. It does have to be for a matter of fact, like whether a ball has crossed the line, and not to take away the opinion of the referee on decisions."

Television evidence has been used before to rule on domestic football disputes. In 1994 the German football federation ordered a match between Bayern Munich and Nuremberg to be replayed after television showed a referee had made a mistake in awarding a goal when the ball had not gone into the goal. The decision was taken after the match, when video evidence was reviewed.

The Manchester United manager, Alex Ferguson, said yesterday he supported the idea of professional referees. "I think that's a good step forward," he said. "I think with the money being generated in football, we should be looking to advance the refereeing system and also standards." He added: "The technology is another thing. How many times is technology going to be used to decide if the ball is over the line?"

These and other matters are still to be decided, such as who will sponsor referees' kits to pay for their salaries, as the Premier League may seek to suggest. A firm of opticians, perhaps?



Rough justice: Terry Phelan, behind the Everton goal line, prepares to clear Nathan Blake's effort for Bolton at the Reebok Stadium at the start of last season. A goal was not given, although television evidence showed that the ball had crossed the line

AP

THE GOALS THAT GOT AWAY

WORLD CUP FINAL 1966	EUROPEAN CUP SEMI-FINAL 1969	EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP 1996	FA PREMIERSHIP 1997	GERMAN BUNDESLIGA 1994
England 4 West Germany 2 Some people are on the pitch, they think it's all over. "We might never have heard this wretched phrase had the Russian linesman, Yury Bakuramov, disallowed England's third goal. Geoff Hurst's shot hit the bar bounced on the line and into a million arguments since.	Manchester United 1 Milan 0 Even England's World Cup win took Denis Law less. Trailing 2-0 from the first leg, United, the holders, seemed to be taking the game into extra-time when the Scotland international stabbed the ball goalwards. To this day he maintains: "It was a good six inches over the line."	Bulgaria 1 Romania 0 Romania were good enough to beat England in France 96 and might have prospered two years earlier if Dorinel Munteanu's shot, which cannoned off the bar and bounced beyond the line, had counted. Instead this result ensured they were the first team out of Euro 96.	Bolton Wanderers 0 Everton 0 The first game at the Reebok Stadium and one that has grown infamous in Bolton. Nathan Blake bundled Gerry Taggart's header over the line but referee Stephen Lodge ruled otherwise. Later the goal was revealed. Bolton were relegated on goal difference, behind Everton.	Bayern Munich 2 Nuremberg 1 Struggling Nuremberg lost when the referee decided, despite protests, that Thomas Helmer had scored for Bayern. Television evidence showed the ball had not crossed the line and in an unprecedented move, the German FA ordered the game to be replayed. Bayern won 5-0.

Rioch comes home to roost with Canaries



Rioch: Imposing strict diet on Delia's men Peter Jay

TO TALK with Bruce Rioch in the handsome surroundings of the Norwich training ground, to share his enthusiasm for the job of masterminding the recovery of a club which went dramatically from European upstarts to Nationwide League strugglers, to discover his determination to commit himself to a new life in Norfolk, is to be left in no doubt that there is life in football after the humiliation of the sack.

It is something that Rioch has discussed with his good friend and one-time international team-mate Kenny Dalglish who, with the new season just two weeks old, found himself turning to the late summer holiday brochures when Newcastle decided on a managerial change.

If that was an unusual experience for the two-time championship-winner, Rioch can trump it. Two years ago he

Norwich manager has found a new lease of life after strife in London. By Trevor Haylett

was five days away from the start of his second season with Arsenal, having guided the north London club into Europe, when he learned he was no longer wanted. Then there was his subsequent time at Queens Park Rangers and the force of discovering, via Cefix, that both he and Stewart Houston, his right-hand man at Highbury but his "boss" at Loftus Road, had been dismissed.

Football is, however, a cyclical business and Rioch's new charges have responded with the same sense of purpose and conviction. The first six weeks of the season have seen the Canaries flying high again at the head of the First Division. The eight-month post-

Rangers break recharged him and left Rioch hungry to return to the world of touchline tension and motorway miles. Delia Smith's club and the opportunity to work with his former Everton team-mate Brian Hamilton, the new Norwich director of football, had just the right feel about it.

"There was never a period when I felt I had finished with the game," Rioch explains. "I was too ingrained in it, my competitive instincts were still too sharp to contemplate doing anything else." He formed an instant rapport with the Norwich directors and that was important given past occurrences. He also believed in the potential of a club well practiced

in discovering young players of outstanding talent. For Chris Sutton, Ruel Fox and Jeremy Goss from Mike Walker's 1993 UEFA Cup giant-killers read the brash but brilliant Craig Bellamy, the jet-propelled Darren Eadie and also Keith O'Neill.

So certain is he of the future that Rioch has bought a new home on the Norfolk Broads. That is significant when it is remembered that even during his three years at Bolton (taking the team from the old Third Division into the top flight) the family remained at their long-time Hertfordshire base.

With that location, the Arsenal offer was irresistible in every sense. The parting of the ways 13 months later left

him very disappointed. "I can't tell you exactly how long it took to get it out of my system but it was some time," he recalled. "At Arsenal it was made worse because there you have the privilege of working at one of the biggest clubs of all, a club of world renown."

"As a manager you lose your job in one of two ways, either because of results or because of events. Bearing in mind that the previous season Arsenal had finished equal fourth and qualified for Europe, it was not results that cost me my job. I know Arsène Wenger's name had been mentioned and it appeared that one or two members of the board may have wanted to bring him in."

The Loftus Road fiasco he dismisses as "Bloody stupid". "To have read about my own dismissal on Cefix, before anyone from the club had been

in touch, should tell you everything about the situation there. No matter how many excuses they make it can never properly explain it away."

The Rioch regime leaves the Norwich players having to adapt to longer hours at work and regular afternoon sessions with a fitness coach. "It is something that has been the norm on the Continent for a long time. Football is big business and you have to look at every way of getting the players in the best condition."

So much sympathy in the afternoon for Eadie and Co as they pound the beat. And no tea either. Rioch has removed both tea and coffee from his diet - a legacy of his time at Highbury with Dennis Bergkamp, who drinks only hot water and lemon. The new Norwich manager looks set for a long and healthy stay at Carrow Road.

Huddersfield claims put to the Bull test

AN EARLY test of Premiership pretensions will grace an unlikely venue today when Huddersfield Town, the unexpected pacesetter in the Nationwide First Division, take on the perennial disappointers, Wolverhampton Wanderers.

The McAlpine Stadium was more used to the tension of the relegation zone last season, when Huddersfield opened up with a run of results as poor as their current run has been good. Last October Peter Jackson took on a side still searching for their first League victory, quickly put them in order and after the Terriers produced a purple patch in March and April that generated four wins and two draws they were safe. That form survived the summer and this morning they stand on top of the division, albeit only on goals scored.

Marcus Stewart, last season's leading scorer and, with Wayne Allison, their top marksman so far this term, picked up

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE

a bruised toe during their midweek Worthington Cup draw against Everton. Like the mid-fielders Ben Thornley and Grant Johnson, who have groin strains, he should be fit to play.

The return of Steve Bull should lift fifth-placed Wolves (three points cover the top seven) as they search for a first win in four League games. Fernando Gomez and Keith Curle also return.

Birmingham City, lying second, could welcome back Peter Ndlovu, the fleet-footed wide man, only two weeks after knee surgery to face Grimsby at St Andrew's. The Mariners try to end a run of four defeats that has dropped them towards the dregs of the division with the Lees, Nogan and Ashcroft, their new signing, forming a fresh strike partnership.

Sunderland will take on Oxford United at home without their leading scorer, Kevin

Phillips, who injured an ankle during a midweek Worthington Cup win over Chester. Michael Bridges, the England under-21 international, will start his first league game of the season alongside Danny Dichio in attack in the continued absence of Niall Quinn. Oxford, beset by injury, are hoping that their central defender Phil Gilchrist passes a test on his hamstring.

Bury, another surprise early front-runner, put their new signing, Chris Billy, straight in as they go for a fifth successive home League win, against the bottom club, Tranmere.

Gareth Taylor is doubtful for Sheffield United's match against Norwich City because of a bruised ankle, but Jonathan Hunt, on loan from Derby, could return after sitting out the midweek Worthington Cup victory over Grimsby. The Republic of Ireland striker Keith O'Neill is poised to make his comeback for Norwich after a calf injury.

Milan reap benefit from Bierhoff

WHILE SOME Italian clubs may need to redeem themselves this weekend after poor starts to the new season both domestically and in Europe there are no such problems for Milan, who visit Salernitana tomorrow fresh from a 3-0 victory at home to Bologna.

The German centre forward Oliver Bierhoff, a prolific goal scorer in Serie A for Udinese

last season, was on the mark twice for his new club, the early leaders in the European club rankings, and Leonardo added the third. Salernitana, conversely, need to step up on their 3-1 defeat at Roma.

The champions Juventus proved vulnerable at the back

in their 4-3 victory at Perugia last Sunday. Juve host Cagliari tomorrow, the injured Paolo Montero, Mark Iuliano and Ciro Ferrara.

Internazionale, who pulled back a point after being 2-0 down at Cagliari last week, need to bounce back from their 2-0 defeat by the European Cup holders, Real Madrid, as Parma travel to Venezia.

WEEKEND FOOTBALL FIXTURES AND POOLS GUIDE

TODAY	3.0 unless stated
FA CUP FIRST ROUND	
1 Coventry v Newcastle	
2 Derby v Leicester	
3 Luton v Aston Villa	
4 Liverpool v Charlton	
5 Middlesbrough v Everton	
6 Norwich v Sheffield Wed	
7 Southampton v Tottenham	
8 Wimbledon v Tottenham	
9 Sheffield Wed v Tottenham	
10 Birmingham v Grimsby	
11 Bury v Bolton	
12 Huddersfield v Wolves	
13 Ipswich v Bristol City	
14 Port Vale v Portsmouth	
15 Oxford v Luton	
16 QPR v Barnsley	
17 Sunderland v Oxford Utd	
18 Swindon v Walsley	
19 Blackburn v Luton	
20 Bristol Rovers v Lincoln City	
21 Fulham v York City	
22 Gillingham v Burnley	
23 Millwall v Northampton	
24 Man City v Chesterfield	
25 Wigan v Macclesfield	
26 Oldham v Preston	
27 Reading v Walsley	
28 Rotherham v Hartlepool	
29 Wrexham v Stoke	
30 Wycombe v Bournemouth	
31 Cardiff v Rochdale	
32 Carlisle v Chester	
33 Exeter v Shrewsbury	
34 Exeter v Barnet	
35 Hull v Halifax	
36 Leyton Orient v Plymouth	
37 Peterborough v Plymouth	
38 Rotherham v Hartlepool	
39 Scarborough v Mansfield	
40 Southend v Cambridge Utd	
41 Torquay v Swindon	
42 Tottenham v Southampton	
43 Dunfermline v Hearts	
44 Motherwell v Kilmarnock	
45 St Johnstone v Aberdeen	
46 Celtic v Rangers	
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IN TOMORROW'S INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY 19 PAGES OF SPORT



FEAT OF THE GAMES
A 15-year old with size 16 feet has made the biggest splash in the Commonwealth Games. Andrew Longmore meets "The Thorpedo"

WENGER V FERGUSON
The two dominant managers in the English game pit their wits tomorrow at the end of an important week for each. Nick Townsend and Simon Turnbull report

CRICKET'S NEW POWERBROKER
Mark Mascarenhas is the Mr Fixit in the sport's most important markets - television and the sub-continent. He speaks to Stephen Brenkley



ORWIN'S COUNTRY PURSUIT
A former England rugby captain is devoting himself to a village club. Tim Glover investigates

TEN YEARS AFTER
Ben Johnson is back in the news, exactly 10 years after his disgrace in Seoul. Simon Turnbull finds out why.

Larsson buoyed by being a big fish

Celtic will be relying on their Swedish striker at Rangers tomorrow. By Glenn Moore

FOOTBALLERS TRADITIONALLY move to stronger, tougher environments to improve themselves. This is one of the reasons Paul Ince moved to Italy and Alan Shearer is often encouraged to do so. Playing with and against better players is thought to bring the best from sportsmen.

But it is not always so. Sometimes good players are crushed by the change, perhaps their mental or physical strength is not up to the new environment, maybe their style is unsuited. Dennis Bergkamp's unhappy spell at Internazionale, where neither tactics nor personnel were in harmony with him, is one of the best examples.

The reverse of the same coin is a good player flourishing among weaker ones precisely because he is the big fish. The responsibility prompts a concentration and consistency which previously proved elusive. The consequence is an upward spiral of growing confidence and success.

Such an example is Henrik Larsson who tomorrow celebrates his 27th birthday by carrying Celtic's hopes into Glasgow's West End for the first Old Firm derby of the season. With Rangers already edging clear in the Scottish Premiership the defending champions will be relying on a good performance from their Swedish striker.

To date Larsson has not reproduced his best in the frenetic derby atmosphere but, with his game continuing to blossom despite the club's internal troubles and lack of investment in new players, there is a measure of optimism among the Bhoys. Already this year he has shown his big-game temperament in Zagreb, where he was one of the few Celtic players to emerge with credit from their Champions' League qualifier; in Portugal in midweek where he scored Celtic's opener in the UEFA Cup tie against Vitoria Guimaraes, his fourth goal of the season; and in Stockholm where he gave England - and Ince in particular - the run-around in Sweden's European Championship win.

This match was especially significant for Larsson as he cemented his return to the national team having been out of favour under the previous manager, Tommy Svensson.

Lars Lagerback, assistant to the new coach, Tommy Soderberg, said of Larsson: "He has improved a lot. Since playing for Celtic his confidence has increased and that is an important thing."

Within Sweden the belief is that this is because the Scottish League lacks strength in depth, allowing Larsson to dominate more often

than he did when emerging with Helsingborg in Sweden, or after moving to Feyenoord in the Netherlands. Quite possibly, but since neither the Swedish nor Dutch leagues are noted for their strength the way Larsson has taken to life in Scotland must also be factor.

"I like it in Scotland, it is a lovely country," he said. "There is a lot of attention from fans but it is expressed differently to when I was in Holland and I like it better."

"The home games are stunning; there is a big buzz every time we play there. It is something special and there are not many teams have a 60,000 crowd every game, even teams like Milan only get 30,000 for the smaller Serie A teams."

The Netherlands, said Larsson, were "polluted" in comparison to Scotland. A private man, he lives quietly in Bothwell, one of the footballers' "ghettos" south east of Glasgow, with his Swedish wife Magdalena and one-year-old son Jordan (named after the basketball player Michael).

Apart from an incident with Tosh McKinlay last November, which ended with the defender giving him a "Glasgow kiss", he has been free of controversy; a blissful release to Celtic after their problems with Pierre van Hooft, Jorge Cadete and Paolo Di Canio.

Larsson would not even discuss the contract dispute, save to nod in response to the suggestion he must be pleased it was over.

Larsson was first attracted to Celtic by the presence of Wim Jansen, his former coach at Feyenoord. The relatively small fee, £650,000, was dictated by a clause in his contract and though he had to go to a tribunal to gain his release from the Dutch club, he still arrived without fanfare.

Terry Butcher, the former England and Rangers defender, now a media observer of the Scottish game, said: "There was little expectation. People had heard of him but were not too sure how good he was and reserved judgement until they saw him in the flesh."

As the mass of shirts at Celtic Park bearing Larsson's name suggests, judgement was favourable.

"Though Celtic did not start well he did," Butcher added. "Celtic then went on a good run and his form was a major part of helping Celtic win the championship. When he plays Celtic play. If you can pinpoint a way to stop Celtic from playing it is to stop Larsson getting on the ball."

While Scottish domestic football does not have the best of reputations Lagerback thought it had improved significantly over the past 10 years and added that Celtic's passing



Striker Henrik Larsson has proved a timely inspiration for both Celtic (above) and Sweden (below)

game made it easier for Larsson to fit in.

"It is true that not every team in Scotland play like Celtic," Larsson said. "Maybe that is why we get the results we get, because we pass the ball more. But it is not true to say the league is easy. Whenever we play the so-called smaller teams there is a packed defence and they don't want to attack that much. It is always hard to break through."

Celtic having lost Van Hooft, Cadete and Di Canio in quick succession, Larsson had to be both scorer and provider when he arrived. He began with a rush of goals, eight in his first nine League games, and had a dozen before Christmas.

The goals then came more slowly as he reverted to a more creative role but the 19th, and possibly most vital, eased the final-day nerves against St Johnstone as Celtic denied Rangers to clinch their first title in a decade.

"Without him I don't think they would have won the title," Butcher said. "The way he plays his football is so positive. He is a very good user of the ball, he can provide a pass, has good control, floats behind the main striker in that Peter Beardsley role."

"If you have somebody that can hold the ball up, turn and go at people and score good goals you always have a chance."



Fresh start for new Saint

SCOTTISH FOOTBALL

BY KEN GAUNT

BILLY KIRKWOOD will be back in the dugout today ready to launch a new chapter in his career. The former Dundee United manager left the backroom staff at Hull this week to become assistant boss to Sandy Clark at St Johnstone.

Saints entertain Aberdeen today, almost two years to the day since Kirkwood was sacked as Tannadice manager four games into the season.

He then moved to Hong Kong before taking up an offer to join Mark Hateley on Humberstone. Now he is thrilled to be back home and believes the Perth club have the potential to become one of the leading lights in Scottish football.

"St Johnstone are very forward looking and the chairman (Geoff Brown) has everything up and running here," he said. "I am delighted to be back in Perth. It is a perfect move for me as the family live here."

Saints' former Republic of Ireland defender Alan Kernaghan is receiving treatment in a bid to shrug off a knee problem, while John McQuillan is struggling with a shoulder injury.

Aberdeen have not won any of their last four games but could go top of the table, depending on results.

Manager Alex Miller will welcome back midfielder Craig Hignett, who missed the draw against Motherwell because of suspension.

Striker Mike Newell said yesterday: "We've had a steady start to the season and a win tomorrow would give everyone a boost."

Tayside rivals Dundee and Dundee United meet for the first time this season in a bottom of the table derby.

Dundee notched up their first victory of the new campaign last week against Hearts, while United have still to get off the mark.

Dens Park manager Jocky Scott said: "We have taken a good bit of confidence from our last two games."

"But there is no point in winning at Tynecastle and dropping points at home, especially against your neighbours."

"We know that in this league a steady stream of points can rocket you up the table and that's what we have to aim at."

New United boss Paul Sturrock had an impressive record as a player in local derbies but knows it will be tough tomorrow.

"We need to kick start our season and get a league victory," he said. "It would be a bonus to do it against Dundee."

Motherwell's new player-cum-director Pat Nevin is expected to face his former Kilmarnock team-mates at Fir Park.

The former Scottish international moved across to his new club last month amid mounting criticism about his new role.

Nevin is expected to supply the ammunition for strike pair Owen Coyle and former Ross County forward Derek Adams.

Said Coyle, "What's important is that we maintain the form we've shown over the past few weeks. We've made a decent start to the season in my book."

Top two Rangers and Celtic meet tomorrow at Ibrox, while Dunfermline entertain Hearts.

Vialli's rotation leaves Chelsea in tailspin

BY STEVE TONGUE

IF IT is any consolation to Chelsea and Newcastle United, their unconvincing performances in Thursday night's European Cup Winners' Cup first-leg ties formed part of an unexpected pattern spread throughout the competition. Of the other teams fancied to do well, Lazio, Paris St-Germain and Germany's MSV Duisburg were all held to a draw at home by lightly regarded opposition.

At least the English pair won, albeit by a single goal, and will travel to their return games in better heart than the representatives of Italy, France and Germany.

Their frustration on Thursday was almost as great, however, Chelsea's because of the failure to break down a dogged Helsingborg defence more than once and Newcastle's because of conceding an away goal to Partizan Belgrade.

The link between the two English clubs is, of course, Ruud Geulit, and it was the system of squad rotation he introduced to Stamford Bridge that provided the main talking point after the game there.

Geulit, it was generally agreed, mixed and matched to good effect, the few remaining British players

accepting that results justified a system contrary to that they had been brought up with. After the great parting of the ways, his successor, Gianluca Vialli, found the right formation to win two cups, and on the back of that convinced his paymasters that four more World Cup players should be thrown into the melting pot as well.

Now, 30 highly-paid professionals are studying the team-sheet each week, with little idea which of them will actually get a game.

If results were still good, this might be seen as creative tension, keeping everyone on their toes and standards high; performances like Thursday's struggle to overcome the Swedish side Helsingborg by one illegal goal to nil (Dennis Wise fouled an opponent to help Franck Leboeuf's free-kick on its way into the net) suggest that there might yet be merit in the old-fashioned notion of finding the best side and sticking with it.

After achieving a first win of the season last Saturday, Vialli had made seven changes and used a new system, incorporating a David

Girola-like role for Brian Laudrup. The Dane had complained publicly before the match about the difficulties for individuals and the team in finding a rhythm, especially with four newcomers.

After a disjointed display, flawed by much more than the mere missing of chances, Vialli was reluctant to discuss the matter, saying only: "I have 22 players and plenty of matches. I don't want to end up in January with all of them tired. With so many players, I can change the team and still play well."

The danger, even if they should still beat Helsingborg, is that Chelsea as a unit will not play well enough quickly enough to launch the championship challenge that was expected of them this season.

Geulit, meanwhile, taking Newcastle to Belgrade with a 2-1 lead, will want the sort of solid away leg that Chelsea gave him in Bratislava last season, rather than the wild sleigh-ride in the Tromso snow, where they lost 3-2.

Britain's other representatives, Hearts, should have no problem with the weather in Spain but cannot be optimistic about their tie with Real Mallorca, after losing the home leg 1-0.

Di Canio's agent flying to the Owls

PAOLO DI CANIO'S agent is planning talks next week with Danny Wilson, the Sheffield Wednesday manager, and the club's chairman, Dave Richards, in an effort to resolve the Italian striker's future.

Di Canio and his midfield countryman Benito Carbone appeared to bear the brunt of Wilson's outburst following his side's lethargic and inept performance in the embarrassing 1-0 home defeat by Cambridge in the Worthington Cup in midweek.

Although not directly naming the two Italians, Wilson criticised the commitment of certain players, whom he described as "self-indulgent" and "detrimental to the team."

Moreno and Matteo Roggi, the father and son partnership who act on behalf of Di Canio, are flying into Sheffield for talks with both Richards and Wilson.

Arsene Wenger, the Arsenal manager, has ruled out a bid for Alan Shearer after the Newcastle and England striker's agent was spotted watching the London team this week.

"Shearer is a great player but I think at the moment it's important to keep the door open for Anelka as first choice because he is only 19-years-old," Wenger said.

Passing on the glamour

MY FRIEND'S eight-year-old son has fixed a plaque to the garden gate. "Man Utd fan lives here," it proclaims.

No one can doubt young Simon's allegiance. As he bangs his plastic football against the green garage door (his father refuses to paint it red and white), he wears the replica shirt that enables him to dream that his name is really Giggs, and that he is slamming the winning goal into the Stretford End goal.

It so reminds me of my early years when I was an avid supporter of Wolves. Of course, I followed the West Midlands giants for the same reason that Simon now follows United. They were the glamour team of the mid-Fifties. Their stars were my heroes. For Beckham, Scholes, Keane, read Williams, Shorthouse, Mullen.

It all seems so familiar, yet there are critical differences and these could spell disaster for the British game. When I was Simon's age, my father, delighted by my emerging love of football, decided to take me to my first match. The long and expensive trip to Wolverhampton was out of the question so I had to settle for the local Second Division outfit, Nottingham Forest. Sometime later, I was taken to another game. Once more, Forest happened to be the local team at home. The 1956-7 season saw For-

est challenging for promotion. My father followed the campaign with gathering interest and I was taken to most of the games.

It took a fellow Wolves fan to pose the question: "If Forest are promoted," he said apprehensively, "they will play Wolves. Who will you support when they do?"

FAN'S EYE VIEW

NOTTM FOREST

BY STEPHEN SHAW

"Wolves, of course," I replied brightly, but I knew that I was lying. I had become a Forest fan. None of this is likely to happen to Simon. A fuzzy black and white photograph in the paper, (nothing more than a collection of dots if you looked closely) was as near as I got to seeing a Peter Broadbent goal. Simon watches an Andy Cole strike in long-shot, in close-up, in fast-motion and in slow-motion, from all angles, and all in glorious colour. He hardly ever misses a match. Should his father decide to treat

his son to a real match at Forest, the colour is likely to drain from his cheeks when he rings up to enquire about the cost. In any case, Simon will not want to go. Why should he want to see any game that doesn't involve his beloved United? He would rather his father pour money into the coffers of Old Trafford in return for a United bedspread, T-shirt, poster or mug.

From the age of 11, I was allowed to go to watch Forest with a gang of mates. These were great social events but Simon's more likely course in a few years will be to get in a few cans and invite his friends round to watch United on the box.

There is, however, a nightmare scenario. Maybe Simon and his friends will board one of the coaches organised by the Nottingham branch of the United supporters' club and join the 150,000 crowd watching the Red Devils playing their super league match against Juventus. Meanwhile, back in Nottingham, Forest will be playing Ilkeston Town in the East Midlands semi-professional league.

Wolves performed a wonderful service for me and for football. Their success and their glamour helped to develop my passion for the game. Having done this, they passed me on benignly to my local club. If only the modern Manchester United would do the same.

SPORT

BEN SMITH LEADS TITLE CHARGE P27 • CELTIC'S SWEDISH INSPIRATION P30

FA to offer Hoddle new contract

GLENN HODDLE will be offered another chance to fulfil his perceived destiny and lead England to World Cup glory – but only on the Football Association's terms.

That was the leading conclusion from yesterday's meeting between the England coach and the FA's international committee at Lancaster Gate. A rap over the knuckles for Paul Ince apart, it was also the only conclusion as the 14-man committee – average age 67 – followed FA custom and passed the

BY GLENN MOORE
Football Correspondent

back. Discussion of Hoddle's infamous World Cup diary and his dependence on the faith-healer, Eileen Drewery, was devolved to a sub-committee.

This heavyweight six-man body will begin formulating the FA's approach to Hoddle before the end of the month, but direct negotiations are not expected to start until after the European Championship qualifiers against Bulgaria on 10 October

and Luxembourg on 14 October. The FA expects UEFA to extend Ince's ban to both those games after his dismissal in Sweden earlier this month but is not intending any pre-emptive action. Ince will be dealt with on 8 October, unless UEFA accedes to the FA's request for an earlier hearing.

The committee did make it clear to Hoddle that it did not expect a repeat of the V-sign Ince made after his dismissal, and he was to pass the message to the Liverpool midfielder. "Discipline was a major concern,"

one of those present said. "It was made clear that Ince's behaviour was not acceptable."

Noel White, a Liverpool director and chairman of the international committee, said "an overwhelming majority backed Glenn Hoddle. There are no major problems as far as I am concerned."

There are clearly some dissenters though, possibly as many as four, and some areas of concern will be discussed by the sub-committee. It is anticipated the proposed new contract, which would be a considerable increase on Hoddle's present £250,000-a-year salary, may include a clause restricting him from writing books during his tenure or insisting they be passed by the committee before publication. Hoddle is also likely to be told that, while he can continue using the services of Drewery, it would be helpful if her profile was lower.

Not discussed, but likely to come up when the group meet Hoddle, is his poor relationship with the media. But moves are afoot to improve a situation which does not help the media, Hoddle, or an FA always mindful that, sooner or later, it will have to find a successor.

Whether after the European Championship, when his current deal expires, the next World Cup, or the next match, depends on Hoddle, who may not want to extend or even finish his contract. The bottom line, as ever, is results. After losing three of the last four matches, they need to be improved.

THE KINGMAKERS	
FA INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE	
<p>Moel White (chairman), age 68, Liverpool; David Richards (vice-chairman), 53, Sheffield Wednesday; Ray Beresford, 66, Bedford FA; John Davey, 74, Sussex FA; David Dale, 54, Arsenal; Doug Ellis, 74, Aston Villa; Frank Hannah, 73, Manchester FA; Ray Kildell, 73, Norfolk FA; Sir Bert Williams, 84, former FA chairman; David Sheepshanks, 45, Ipswich Town and Football League; Ian Scott,</p>	<p>64, Oldham; Barry Taylor, 56, Barnsley; Chris Wilcock, 75, Gloucestershire FA; Jack Wiseman, 81, Birmingham City. *absent yesterday</p>
HODDLE CONTRACT GROUP	
<p>Graham Kelly, FA chief executive; Keith Wiseman, FA chairman and Southampton; Geoff Thompson, FA vice-chairman and Sheffield and Hallamshire FA; White, Richards, Sheepshanks.</p>	

Bad hair day good as gold for Oakes

BY DERRICK WHYTE

JUDY OAKES yesterday became the oldest woman to win a gold medal in the 68-year history of the Commonwealth Games.

The 40-year-old won her first medal – bronze – in Edmonton in 1978, before Margaret Thatcher became Prime Minister, and when Jimmy Carter was President of the United States.

Twenty years, three golds and two silvers later, the veteran shot putter is still on top. But her victory was achieved in bizarre circumstances when her special hairdo went wrong. She had planned to dye her fringe red, white and blue but it came out gold, as did her throw of 18.83 metres, her best of the year.

"It is a wonderful feeling. The hair was not supposed to turn out golden but it is appropriate," she said. "I can't decide which of the three golds I prefer. This games stands out as the best."

"I just wanted it very badly as it's my last Commonwealth Games. I didn't want to go out on a loss."

Oakes followed her 1978 games debut with gold in Brisbane, silvers in Edinburgh in 1986 and Auckland in 1990, and then another gold four years ago in Victoria, Canada.

Highlight of the day on the athletics track was the 400-metre victory of Iwan Thomas, who had travelled 20,000 miles in the past fortnight, taking in Moscow and Johannesburg before galloping to success for the first Welsh gold medal.

Elsewhere, England's Leon Griffin, a motor mechanic from Ipswich, won two gold medals in the weightlifting arena with compatriot Stephen Ward making it a hat-trick.

Games reports, page 22 A feisty parting shot gave 40-year-old Judy Oakes her third Commonwealth gold medal yesterday



Allsport

Life at the top suits Gregory

BY GUY HODGSON

NOT SO long ago John Gregory seemed to have one topic of conversation. Ask him a question and the words "Dwight York" came back, but if that made dinner parties something of a chore he has moved on since then.

To be top of the Premiership in your first full season is plenty to talk about and it is conceivable that Villa could be six points clear by this evening. Unlike, as they have won only once on their last 10 visits to Leeds United, but the fact the prospect is there is a testament to the progress made under Gregory.

It is fair to say that his arrival at Villa Park from Wycombe Wanderers on 25 February did not lead to dancing in the streets of Aston. Perhaps it ought to have done as Gregory's League record is not just good, it is phenomenal. 27 out of 33 points last season and 13 out of 15 this.

Now, with due respect to their previous opponents, comes a real test of those statistics, a trip to third-place Leeds, whose parsimonious defence has conceded only one goal this season.

Liverpool are Villa's closest pursuers and they are at home to Charlton Athletic, who have come back to terra firma with a bang since they led the Premiership, albeit fleetingly. A 4-1 defeat at Old Trafford followed by a 2-1 reverse at home to Derby suggests the early season "we've proved the critics wrong" might have been premature.

Anfield is not the ideal choice for a recuperative venue, particularly after Liverpool's resounding 3-0 win over Kooze in Slovakia on Tuesday night in the UEFA Cup, but Alan Curishley, who will be the first Charlton manager to win there since 1984 if his side prevail, was bullish yesterday.

"The lads are desperate to bounce back," he said. "I didn't

go overboard over our first three results and I'm not worried by successive league defeats. The most important thing is that we learn something from every match."

After Coventry had lost to Manchester United last week their manager, Gordon Strachan, was scathing of his players, accusing them of being psychologically cowed before they took to the pitch. "We're in the bottom three now and I don't like it," he said. "There's a stigma about the place and we're going to work very, very hard to get out of there."

Fortunately for Strachan, the fixture planners have taken on some of the toil, placing the Sky Blues at home to a team whose energy levels ought to be the equivalent of a flat battery. You could argue there is no had time to play Newcastle at the moment, but just 41 hours after a gruelling European Cup-Winners' Cup tie is as good as any.

If Coventry have been bad, however, Southampton have been dire. As the club left March they were 10th in the Premiership and Europe was a realistic prospect. One win in their final seven matches was the slip betwixt UEFA Cup and FA Cup, although that sequence has taken on a rosy shade in comparison to this season's start.

Five defeats and 12 goals conceded is calamitous although their manager, Dave Jones, did draw straw-clutching comfort from a 1-1 Worthington Cup draw against Fulham in midweek. "Maybe we've decided to pull our fingers out at last," he said. "Once we get a few points on the board we'll be away."

Derby, who have crept quietly into fourth place, meet Leicester while West Ham, who are eighth, travel to Nottingham Forest with a growing reputation as the great unpredictables of the Premiership. A 4-3 defeat at home to Wimbledon (after being 3-0 up) has been followed with a win over Liverpool and a 2-0 shock at Northampton. Predict the scoreline at the City Ground if you dare.

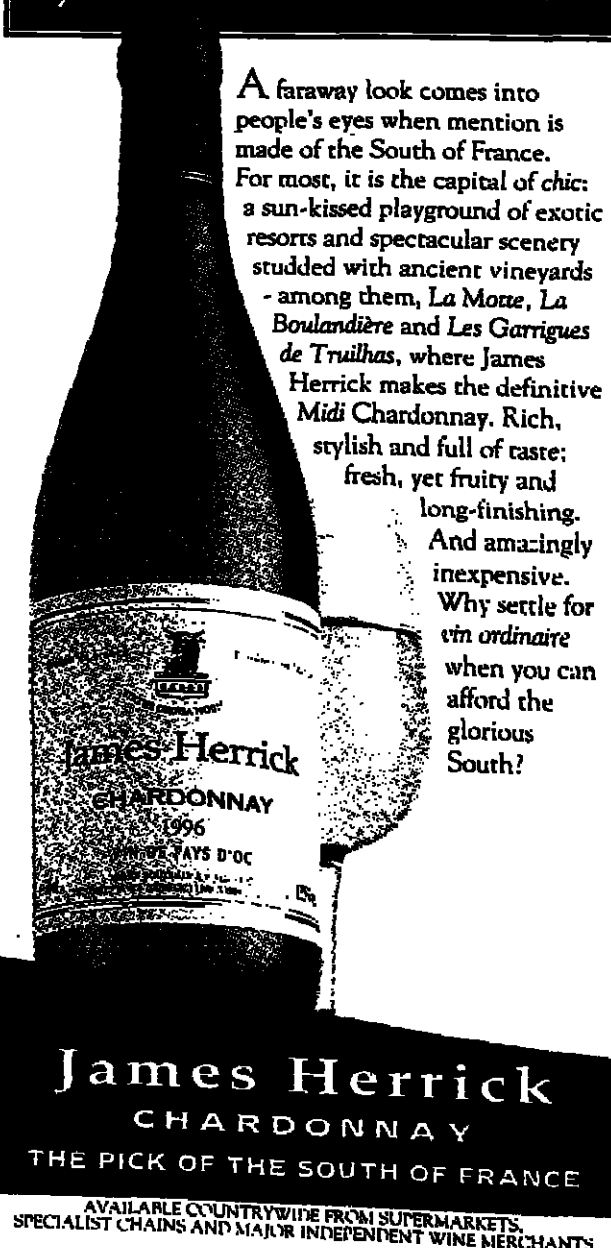
Which you could also say about tomorrow's game at Highbury between England's two Champions' League representatives. Arsenal won the corresponding fixture 3-2 last year but the previous season Manchester United won 2-1. The match will be fascinating, not only to see how both sides recover from their European labours but also for the juxtaposition of the striking doyen, Dennis Bergkamp, and the £12m-man in his wake, Yorke.

If nothing else, it will give John Gregory plenty to talk about.

Weekend guide to the Premiership, page 31

If you like the sound of the South of France you'll love the taste.

A faraway look comes into people's eyes when mention is made of the South of France. For most, it is the capital of chic: a sun-kissed playground of exotic resorts and spectacular scenery studded with ancient vineyards – among them, La Motte, La Bouliardière and Les Garrigues de Truilhas, where James Herrick makes the definitive Midi Chardonnay. Rich, stylish and full of taste; fresh, yet fruity and long-finishing. And amazingly inexpensive. Why settle for vin ordinaire when you can afford the glorious South?

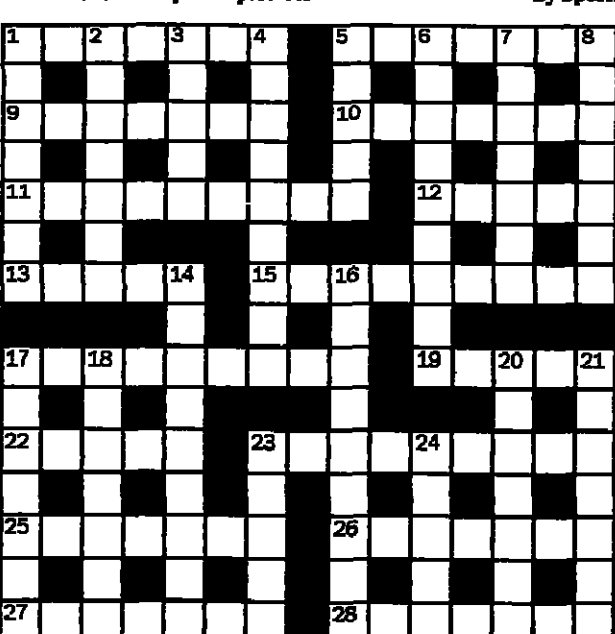


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THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3720. Saturday 19 September

By Sparius



ACROSS

DOWN

- Cathedral canons preach in turn around end of August (7)
- Wine club recruiting church type who's normally abstemious (7)
- Cultural features in Financial Times – I mean! (4,3)
- Choice items were first preserved in vinegar (7)
- Unvarying habit (7)
- Page possibly attached to last section, to finish a set of books (9)
- Spirit that's central to the arts (5)
- Suitable place for hospital in resort (5)
- Factor only present initially in oocyte, endlessly involved in reproduction (9)
- Secretary engaged by an ineffectual person needs American equipment (9)
- Keen to pursue artist's offer (5)
- What waiter gets – ultimately, jolly drunk (5)
- Company practice (9)
- Low tone from bell in ship's berth (7)
- Pork pie and nut chewed by girl (7)
- Lever in plane, possibly, lad's broken (7)
- Ceramic art collected by oriental woman (7)
- Officer's murderer liable to be imprisoned (7)
- Volunteers left on deck (5)
- Welcome offered by east coast resort, quiet English town, originally (3,8)
- Problem for soccer authorities last month (5)
- Hour being struck – next one (9)
- Dark green case, one there's a fuss about (7)
- One of two letters found in "grass" (7)
- Vermivorous pterosaur? (5,4)
- Drier in the south-east (4,5)
- Try getting casual worker in a couple of times (7)
- A little Seneca, typically (7)
- Metal easily crushed by one's thumb? (7)
- Swimmer's record, hard one for fellow to accept (7)
- German encountered in northern French city, mostly a divergent type (5)
- Croat, versatile player (5)

Friday's solution
DEMOTIC ANACRAM
O A O A I L E A E
CONUNDRUM ORGAM
T O B R N A A E
ONAIR YOUNGSTER
R Y I I N I C
HELLOUNBREAITH
I G I I O
N O I S S E S S O R I G E Y
C I O P E A S
L I G H T E N U P M I G H T
U F A A O S E
D R O W N S U B S E R I T Y
O C O L E E N
DETROIT ENLARGE
Last Saturday's solution
MOSQUITO NIPPER
O H P E N A E
CREOSOTE STANDS
C L E R E A I
ALLOY ASSURANCE
A S M A S T O A S T
N A S M A S T O A S T
A N I O G R A
V E N G E A N C E G U R I O
E U R M A A N
R E L I S H Y E A R L I N G
T A E A G B L
S Y R A Y S A T T O R N E Y

The first five correct solutions to this week's puzzle opened next Thursday receive hardbacked copies of the Oxford Dictionary of Quotations. Answers and winners' names will be published next Saturday. Send solutions to Saturday Crossword, P.O. Box 4018, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5BL. Please use the box number and postcode and give your own postcode. Last week's winners: R. Michelle, Cardiff; P. Beldy, Northampton; B. Speedman, London NW6; K. Law, Congleton; P. Ward, Arrand.

Sailor denied work permit

RUGBY UNION

BY CHRIS HEWETT

WENDELL SAILOR may have cruised into rugby's big-money bracket over the last couple of years, but he found himself well and truly torpedoed by the bureaucrats of Twickenham yesterday.

Australia's outsized international rugby league winger was denied permission to play union with Leeds Tykes, the ambitious Allied Dunbar Premiership Two club, after consultation between the governing body and the Overseas Labour Service, the government body responsible for sanctioning work permits.

Sailor agreed a £100,000 deal during the close season as the Tykes planned to pay him £5,000 a game while sharing him with their league cousins, Leeds Rhinos.

However, Sailor's lack of 15-man experience has backfired in a big way. Rugby Football Union rules state that any player from outside the European Community must have played at international level within

the past 18 months to fulfil the entry criteria. Sailor has never played union to Test standard, let alone recently.

"We acknowledge the potential of bringing someone like Sailor into the game in England but we cannot recommend an exception to the criteria at this time," said Terry Burwell, the director of Twickenham services.

"However, we are urgently seeking discussions with all parties to review whether the criteria should encompass a degree of flexibility in special cases."

Leeds, who have persuaded the RFU to think again, are citing the precedent set last year when Newcastle rugby union were allowed to sign the former All Black V'aiga Tuigamala from Wigan rugby league after work permit difficulties.

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19 September 1998

THE INDEPENDENT

19 September 1998

WEEKEND REVIEW

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Lord Lucan, I presume?

BY ANN TRENEMAN

Things had been going so well. George Bingham, son of Britain's most elusive, blue-blooded murderer, had been quietly going about his business assuming the title (and the anonymity) that was his by right. But then his mother turned up, uninvited, at the wedding of his sister and then his girlfriend turned up, at the police station, with an allegation of assault.

The 'absurd' name of Lucan has come back to taunt him

through unscathed. For them to have got on with their lives totally unfazed and unbothered by any of this business is a credit to them," Shand Kydd told a friend. And so it seemed. George was a merchant banker, his sisters Frances and Camilla lawyers. The curse of Lucan was dead and gone.

Not that we were fooled. The Lucan industry was booming. The tourists still visit the Plumbers Arms, the story continues to intrigue. The books, the films, the sightings, the documentaries never end. Still, until earlier this week, there seemed a chance that the new Lord Lucan might get away with it. The coat peg at the House of Lords that had his father's name on it had only recently disappeared. Soon, perhaps, he would have his own coat peg. When people heard the name Lord Lucan, they would think of a 31-year-old merchant banker and not a gambler with blood on his clothes, if not his hands. But then a journalist received a telephone call and all hell broke loose.

"Lucan's Son is Arrested Over Attack on Girl", said the front-page headline. It revealed that George Bingham was interviewed and freed on bail over allegations of assaulting his former girlfriend, Imogen Brewer. The story skipped wildly from the grisly events of 1974 to the sketchy ones of 1998. The link was strictly genetic. George, it seems, "looks remarkably like his father" and this news "adds another chapter to one of the century's most sensational stories".

So far, the chapter is a bit thin. The police will only say that a 31-year-old man from London SW7 was arrested at 8am on 10 September in connection with an alleged ABH (actual bodily harm) on 8 October. He has been bailed to return on 8 October to be re-interviewed. And that really would be that for now, if it weren't for what the "friends" had to say. Imogen, they reveal, is a fun-loving and explosive character "who finds it amusing to use Anglo-Saxon expletives". George, they say, is sensitive and quiet. The two had, it is alleged, a fiery relationship. "It's fair to say that George has had a small difficulty with her," said one. "They have not been boyfriend and girlfriend for some time. There was a falling-out, a row - this can happen when people still regard each other as friends." Except for the fact that most falling-outs do not involve the initials ABH.

But the press seemed more interested in other things by the next day. Imogen, it seems, had shared a hot tub when she was 16 with gossip columnist Dai Llewellyn. Now this can hardly be a rare event but Dai, at least, was interested enough to tell all. "Imogen was a beautiful young girl, but absolutely nothing happened between us," he said. "We were sharing this huge whirlpool bath at Stocks, Ploymouth boss Victor Lowndes's country house in Hertfordshire, when my girlfriend Pascale came storming towards us. She was brandishing one of her stiletto shoes in one hand. I was convinced I was going to get seriously hurt and Imogen thought the whole thing was hilarious." Dai had dinner with Miss Brewer earlier this week. "That incident in the whirlpool bath was typical of her big personality. She's a lovely, charming girl. I'm sure she's hoping this will just blow over."

Actually, she's hoping that the police investigate but, other than that, she too seems caught on the merry-go-round of giving lots of interviews, saying that she doesn't want any more publicity. "I am hating every second of it," she said on Wednesday. By yesterday, though, she had endured quite a few more seconds in another interview. She had to give it, she said. Otherwise people might really think she is a strapping, six-foot Valkyrie who is constantly at parties with It Girls.

"I only told six people about this, so I was horrified when I was rung up by a journalist who seemed to know all the times and dates involved. But I want people to know that this is not a laughing matter."

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THE INDEPENDENT
ON SUNDAY

SCOTLAND SPECIAL



Support for Scottish independence is growing. Tom Nairn, Pat Kane, Ian Bell and Stephen Fay explore what is going on north of the border, politically, culturally and economically

CULTURE



Three nights in the life of Michael Frayn's new play

FOCUS



Why are pop stars taking over the stately homes of England?

REAL LIFE



What happens when your parents proclaim an open marriage? Kate Bingham describes her childhood



Apples and Pears 6: concluding our series on the fruit harvest, a still life of a selection of apples and pears grown at Brogdale Horticultural Trust, which maintains a living gene bank of about 2,000 varieties
Tom Pilon

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk
E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity

Poets who borrow

Sir: We are sad to see another article ("McGough: poet and plagiarist?", 17 September) which gives the impression that poets do nothing but bicker over the small amounts of fame and money available.

It's not the world we know, where poets are friends, swapping drafts, sharing workshop ideas, imitating each other like the magpies they quite naturally are, if they're any good, and, above all, getting excited about language and poetry.

Roger McGough is one of the most generous poets we have. He gives huge amounts of his time and talent to students of all ages and backgrounds. And since, believe me, this is not the road to fame and fortune, he does it out of a conviction that poetry still speaks to people in important ways.

From Shakespeare to Gershwin, writers have borrowed freely from whatever inspired them, and mostly without acknowledging the source in print as conscientiously as McGough has in this case. All of which makes us think it's a shame Jenny Lewis, when asked about it, can't feel proud and pleased to say, "Yes, Roger McGough got the idea from my poem."

MICHAEL DONAGHY
MAURA DOOLEY
IAN DUBIG
DON PATERSON
JO SHAPCOTT
MATTHEW SWEENEY
London SW8

Sir: I thought swiping (excuse me, borrowing) ideas was the sort of thing that only went on in the cut-and-thrust world of advertising, not genteel poetry circles. In advertising it is often said that there is no such thing as an original idea. The practice of "doing a pastiche" has got to the point where you're watching a familiar commercial but find it impossible to determine which product is being advertised until the brand appears in the final three seconds.

Rarer than hen's teeth is an original idea or a new art form. And, it seems to me, that

is what Roger McGough spotted when he read his student's poem "In Case of Fire". You have to ask if Mr McGough actually pointed that out to his student. Did he take her to one side and say, "Do you realise, Jenny, that you've got a real gem of an idea here?" Or did he, on recognising a diamond in the rough, take it, polish it and pocket the proceeds? Being her tutor, shouldn't he have helped her to develop the idea rather than doing it for his own benefit? It's fine to say that it's an accepted thing in poetry for ideas to be borrowed, but if the borrower makes money from it and the originator does not, the morality of the practice should be questioned.

If Mr McGough wants to be fair to his former student he should continue to give credit to Jenny Lewis not only when the poem is printed but also each time it's read, by beginning with the word "ferlewed".

RA HUDSON
Group Managing Director
Advertising Principles
Leeds

Sir: I was interested to read that the poet Jenny Lewis considers her "ferlewed" to be an innovation.

As clever as her "In Case of Fire" is, I must say that when Harry Belafonte sang "There's a Hole in my Bucket" he didn't for a moment imagine that he'd invented the "rybel".

J E HAYDOCK
Sundridge, Kent

Free the mink

Sir: During the past six weeks mink have been released in large numbers from two mink farms, one in Hampshire and one in Staffordshire ("The mink are back... and this time they're angry", 18 September). Such acts are illegal and the perpetrators should be dealt with appropriately, but before condemning these events we should question the motives of those responsible.

All animals that are farmed for their fur are necessarily kept captive; typical mink cages measure 1ft across by

2ft deep. Mink that have been in such cages for more than a few days show profound signs of distress. Some injure themselves.

The conditions in which mink are farmed are barbarically unnatural. The North American mink is semi-aquatic, which means it requires access to running water. Their ideal habitat is similar to that of the otter.

Mink are repeatedly reported to be the cause of the reduction in water vole numbers in the UK. But the water vole is now an endangered species for many reasons, and escaped (and wild) mink are not the main one. Water vole numbers are dangerously low primarily owing to loss of habitat, followed by pollution of their environment.

The man running the North Staffordshire mink farm said that it was crucial to release the mink, an act of terrorism.

Is it more cruel for a captive mink to be released and then die, or is it a greater act of cruelty to retain the animal in captivity until it is gassed and skinned?

NICK DRAKE
Southampton

We need unions

Sir: Your leading article (17 September) asserting that the unions are just another lobby group "on a par with the AA, RSPCA or Greenpeace" forgets about the employment relationship. Unlike the commercial relationship between two businesses, the employer and employee relationship is inherently unequal. The less favoured partner needs special protection.

This is why trade unions continue to fight to achieve basic statutory employment protection, for the right to organise unions freely and for recognition for collective bargaining. In dozens of countries around the world unions are also obliged to fight for basic democratic and human rights.

Working people everywhere are being asked to pay a disproportionate share of the costs of the increasingly competitive

global trading environment. Trade unions are playing a vital role in striving to ensure minimum standards of fair treatment and security at work. This, after all, is in the broad interests of society.

KATHRYN HODDER
Brussels

Cure or curse?

Sir: I was astounded to find Jeremy Laurence greeting the increase in the prescription of anti-depressants as a cause for celebration (Health Check, 15 September).

Clinical depression is indeed a severe and horrific illness, but unfortunately doctors have little time to get to the root of a person's suffering or to point out other coping strategies. It is far more convenient to write a prescription.

The new selective serotonin re-uptake inhibitors like Prozac and Serenex are indeed preferable to the older tricyclics like Anafranil and Prothiaden, in that there is much less risk of drowsiness affecting normal life. But these have only been in use for just over a decade; not very long when one considers that it took the medical profession more than 30 years to admit that the benzodiazepines (the famous "mother's little helpers") were addictive.

I took an ever-increasing cocktail of prescribed psychotropic drugs for over 23 years. During my drug-induced stupor, I would sleep for 10 hours at night and for three hours in the afternoon. I knew no better, having been assured by my doctors that I would need to take anti-depressants for the rest of my life, in the way that a diabetic needs to take insulin.

Since becoming drug-free, life has changed beyond belief. I have now acquired a job; raised thousands of pounds for the Children's Society; gained typewriting and word-processing qualifications; won a national essay competition and passed a violin examination. I would never have contemplated any attempt at achievement whilst taking anti-depressants.

We don't get money handed to us on plates and if I told my parents that I was going to

leave college and join a band and travel the country looking for fame and fortune, I would be told to "wake up and smell the coffee". I can rely on their support to a degree, but as for me living off them, this would be unfair and unreasonable.

SUSAN MARKS
Ripley, Derbyshire

Sir: Jeremy Laurence is right to regard the increase of anti-depressant medication prescriptions as something to be welcomed. For quite a number of years I have suffered a psychotic illness compounded by depression. When the right (for me) anti-depressant was found the improvement in my life was enormous. It has made the difference between existing and living. I offer thanks to the researchers and to the physicians who care for me.

ANDREW P F DUNCAN
Portlady, East Sussex

Sacking the boss

Sir: The Rev P J Mott (Letters, 16 September) asserts the advantage of a monarch who can summarily dismiss a prime minister, as against the lengthy impeachment procedure in the US. The same advantage would also be enjoyed in a republic with a non-executive president.

CHARLIE McLEAN
Petersfield, Hampshire

Sir: I would not be surprised if President Clinton also made private use of the office photocopier - there seems to be no end to the man's wickedness!

GRAHAM ROUNCE
London E2

Not so sweet

Sir: Your cross-section of society is unrealistic ("Sweet sixteen", Magazine, 5 September). It describes a generation of politically correct, anti-drink and drugs, mummy's boys/girls. If you came to a working class area and asked the same questions of 16-year-olds, your replies would be very different. In an area like this teenagers go to the pub, smoke, do drugs and have sex, all on a regular basis. They are all parts of our society and shouldn't be so harshly condemned.

We don't get money handed to us on plates and if I told my parents that I was going to

leave college and join a band and travel the country looking for fame and fortune, I would be told to "wake up and smell the coffee". I can rely on their support to a degree, but as for me living off them, this would be unfair and unreasonable.

SUSAN MARKS
Ripley, Derbyshire

IN BRIEF

Sir: The flaw in the Rev David Keen's dismissal of cultural fashions in recent biblical and theological scholarship (Letter, 15 September) is that there was never a time when this was not the case.

The "certainties" of a bronze-age Middle Eastern tribe are now seen to have been very much culturally determined. In contrast, modern cosmology is based on cumulative, verifiable evidence which also acknowledges its limitations and can be improved upon.

FR DOMINIC KIRKHAM
Manchester

Sir: Newcastle is a lot in the news these days. But why have broadcasters started to pronounce it "Noo-castle" with stress on the second syllable? This might be the way the natives pronounce it, but even Georgies would regard it as plain affectation to say "Pa-ree" or "Mee-lah-noh" when perfectly good Received Pronunciation alternatives exist.

MAX BERAN
Didcot, Oxfordshire

Sir: Andy Gill was not sure whether the Foles were pulling his leg when they told him that the name of the pop group Budka Sufera means "the all-seeing soufflé". They were. It means the prompt box in a theatre. ("I sat on a Euro pop jury", 16 September) Gill also failed to comprehend that Budka Sufera, whatever their current status, were a very popular, respected and somewhat political group during the martial law period. Perhaps this is why he had his leg pulled.

KIERON CONNOLLY
London W11

Lord Lucan, I presume

Continued from page 1
and that I am taking this seriously. They've painted a picture of me as some sort of It Girl, which I'm not. To say that I'm friends with Tara Palmer Tomkinson, Tamara Beckwith and Ralph Halpern is simply ludicrous." She does admit, however, to the odd bout of swearing.

George himself has said only two things. First, he blamed his name: "I feel this is a consequence of carrying this absurd name that I have." Then, he blamed the press. "George Fergie, pudding and pie, kissed the girls and made them cry. When the Press came out to play, George Fergie

ran away," he said as he, in fact, walked away from his West London flat.

William Sitwell says his phone at the features desk of *Woman's Journal* has hardly stopped ringing. "I'm practically his press officer," he said. So does he think the name is cursed? "Well, what do you think?" he asks. "We wouldn't be talking if he wasn't who he was. The cops loved to bundle him down to the station, banging on his door at 8am. It is outrageous." Lord Lucan, he says, just wants to get on with things. The "like father/like son" comparisons are "psychobabble" and typical of the kind of thing he's had to live with. "He is not a

celebrity," says Mr Sitwell. "He's done nothing to get this publicity."

But perhaps he has. His father's last words were that he was going to "lie doggo" for a while. For many years George Bingham let those sleeping dogs lie. He was seven and asleep in the nursery upstairs when the murder occurred. On that night a detective addressed him as "My Lord" and the child answered back: "Don't call me that. Call me George." He stayed George for decades, always insisting he would not claim his title. Even a year ago it was said that he made fun of the House of Lords and called the family ermine,



Lord and Lady Lucan in the early days

which was up at auction, "robes with bits of dead animal on them". The ermine was subsequently withdrawn. Then, on a holiday in Ireland, where his family owns 62,000 acres at Castlebar in County Mayo, he started showing an interest in his inheritance.

He began a journey round his father and he knew it was treacherous. He emerged, having used "Sherlock Holmes" techniques, convinced that his father was no murderer; nor was he alive. His sister's engagement notice in *The Times* may have said she was the younger daughter of the Seventh Earl of Lucan of "wheresoever",

but George knows that his father is in no such place. He is just plain dead.

The journey has taken its toll. His friends speak of it as a "good psychological process". His former girlfriend disagrees. "He took a sabbatical last year to try to find out more about the case and became obsessed with it," says Imogen Brewer. "He would shout 'Everyone lets me down - my family, my friends'. It all became too much in the end." And all because a boy named George wanted to claim what was rightfully his. But he should have known that the name of Lucan has never been lucky.

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An unpleasant whiff of racism that shames this nation

THERE IS the smell of something unpleasant in the air: the whiff of anti-immigrant sentiment. And newspapers, broadcasters and politicians who should know better are helping to kick up the stink. The trigger for these expressions of the unacceptable side of British public opinion is the arrival of refugees from Kosovo, as ethnic cleansing in a patch of Balkan soil adds to ethnic mixing elsewhere in Europe.

The arrival of large groups of foreigners is bound to produce tensions, especially among the indigenous poor and down-trodden next to whom they are usually housed, but the British press is full of "waves" of asylum-seekers, mostly "bogus", and "at record levels", who have ports, airports and seaside towns "under siege", and who are "swamping" local communities. Local councils are "overstretched" and accommodation is "at bursting point".

And yet, what are the numbers? Earlier this year there was an alarm over a few hundred Czech gypsies in Dover. For the whole of the United Kingdom, in the latest month for which figures are available, July, there were 4,215 applications for asylum. According to one tabloid newspaper, this was the "third highest ever recorded", and constituted another "immigration crisis". Yet the total for this year will probably be about the same as in 1995, which recorded the highest number of applications, at 44,000. Of these people, only about one-fifth will be granted asylum status - in other words, the Government will accept that they have a genuine fear of persecution - or "exceptional leave to remain". Is anybody really saying that this country cannot take in 8,000 fearful or needy people in a year? Especially when, it should be remembered, primary immigration is now negligible - the main other source of incomers being the families of those already settled here.

To be sure, the Home Secretary has just announced an amnesty for 10,000 of the backlog of asylum applicants left over from the previous administration. But this is merely the pragmatic acknowledgement of people who are already here and have been for some time.

Jack Straw should be congratulated on getting to grips with the bureaucratic mess bequeathed by the Conservatives, and attempting to speed up the asylum process, delays in which are the main cause of injustice and local strains. But his defensiveness is disappointing. The review of asylum procedures was announced on the same day as the Cabinet reshuffle in July in order to bury it. That may not be such a bad thing: there is no point simply stirring tabloid demons. It is better than the Conservative party's occasional irresponsibility on the issue of immigration. Sir Norman Fowler, the usually invisible shadow Home Secretary, edged a little into daylight this week to prod the demons, expressing his concern about asylum seekers from central Europe. He should try harder to live up to John Major's liberal stance on the issue. He should lift his eyes from the small themes of Sutton Coldfield (his is the last Tory seat in Birmingham) to the larger responsibilities of the nation in Europe. Britain takes far fewer refugees from central Europe and the Balkans than most of our EU partners.

As for Mr Straw, he should bear in mind that, if Britain will not discharge its obligation to the people of Kosovo by using military force to push the Serbs back from their campaign of murderous repression, then the moral

imperative to assist Kosovan refugees is the greater. And both Sir Norman and Mr Straw should do more to remind people of Britain's history as a safe haven, and to build on the tolerant side of British public opinion. All nations are racial melting pots, but Britain is perhaps more conscious of the history of its ingredients. A nation moulded from Celts, Romans, Angles, Saxons, Jutes, Vikings and Normans has been enriched by successive waves of the persecuted and the imported. The

arrival since 1066 of Huguenots, Jews, West Indians, East African Indians, Indian Indians, Pakistanis and Bangladeshis have all made this country an immeasurably better place. Each group encountered dislike and suspicion, and had to battle to win acceptance, but each added economic and cultural energy which reinforced the country's strength as a liberal, eclectic nation. Let us celebrate that heritage and welcome the huddled and fearful few with open arms.



The jobs quandary is only just beginning

IT WAS bound to happen. Making the Bank of England independent was hailed as a master stroke by "Flash" Gordon Brown in the heady days after Labour's landslide. So it was sure to boomerang, and now it has.

This week saw the Prime Minister at the Fujitsu plant which employs hundreds of his constituents, effectively telling them that he felt their pain, but there was nothing he could do because he and the Chancellor had handed over control over interest rates to Eddie George and his colleagues.

An unfair caricature, of course, because the case for an independent central bank was and remains a sound one. Had interest-rate decisions remained with the Treasury, Tony Blair would have been just as powerless as he faced the workers at Fujitsu - or he should have been. Highly-publicised redundancies in the Prime Minister's constituency are not a good reason for cutting interest rates, and it is right that such temptations are removed from the process of rate-setting.

Meanwhile, the man who does actually control interest rates, the Governor of the Bank of England, was giving a speech to the TUC: evidence of the re-alignment of political and economic forces.

Mr Blair seems to have some difficulty adjusting to the consequences of his policy. The contradiction at the heart of New Labour is laid bare again: Mr Blair has given power away and yet continues to disport himself as if running an imperial premiership - just as he has difficulty coming to terms with the fact that devolution of power to Scotland means the Scots should run their own affairs rather than having the fate of Labour candidates decided in Millbank, SW1.

Mr Blair was perhaps unwise to point out that, if interest rates peak at 7.5 per cent in this cycle, that will be a great achievement compared to 15 per cent last time. That is undoubtedly true - bearing in mind that "if" - but it does imply that he thinks rates should now come down. So they should, but if the Bank's Monetary Policy Committee comes to a different conclusion, he is going to look silly.

The committee's problem is that the case for a rate cut is finely-balanced if it looks simply at the figures for the British economy. But there has been, as Gavyn Davies pointed out in our pages this week, a change in market psychology which is affecting economies all over the world.

That means the risk of recession - in Britain and the United States - is now greater than that of inflation. A rate cut would both head off that risk and help soften the pessimism which has gripped market makers. But it is right not to rush to judgement: another disadvantage of politicians is that they tend to be too easily swayed by such temporary surges of optimism and pessimism. Alan Greenspan, America's central banker, was right to be cautious about the idea of co-ordinated rate cuts across the world - that was what made the late Eighties boom worse.

Mr Blair was happy to take the credit for Bank of England independence when everything was going well. Now things are getting rougher, he needs to work harder to remind people of why it was the right policy. And things are likely to get a lot worse before they start getting better. Fasten your seat belts: we are entering the mid-term.

Clinton is not Nixon: he's much worse than that



FERGAL KEANE
The President will hang on for as long as he is allowed to, but democracy is being debased

THROUGHOUT THE past few days in America, I kept coming back to a phrase once employed by a biographer of F Scott Fitzgerald. The biographer was linking the alcoholic Fitzgerald to his most famous character, Jay (The Great) Gatsby - the boy from the wrong side of the tracks who had made good and then been destroyed by his own reckless passion. "Spoiled idealism" was how the biographer described the descent of novelist and character - from the promise they once held out, into the sorry defeat and destruction of their later lives.

Spoiled idealism. Promise turned to betrayal, hope turned into something bitter. That was what we witnessed in America this week as a lying President nobbled from one embarrassing public moment to another.

There is one encounter in particular which stands out. Clinton standing beside the Czech President, and human rights hero, Vaclav Havel, at a Washington news conference. A woman reporter goes directly to the point: "Do you still believe, Mr President, that you have the moral authority to lead this country?" Clinton's answer was, as ever these days, unconvincing. What was more interesting was the body language, the expression on his face. "Of course I don't," it said. "But I'm damned if I'll admit it, and damned if I'll do anything about it."

What we are learning is that, like the "habby" dictators of the Third World whom he professes to despise, Mr Clinton cares more about himself than he does about the notions of democracy and accountability. Set beside a figure like Mr Havel, the

American President was reduced to what he truly is: a mendacious chancer who deserves to be driven from office. There are those who have argued in this newspaper, and elsewhere, that Mr Clinton deserves compassion, that we must not rush to judge a man because he had an extramarital affair and then lied about it. I couldn't agree more. But the Friends of Bill in this country miss the point. The scandal and the stink are about a great deal more than Monica Lewinsky. At the root of it all is contempt for the ideal of justice, which we are told makes America great, and a betrayal of the ideals which Mr Clinton insisted he stood for when he was first elected back in 1992.

This, we are repeatedly told, is not like Watergate. It is not about the abuse of power. Clinton is not Nixon. I think he may in fact be something worse. With Nixon there was never any doubt that we were dealing with a political "operator", as distinct from a visionary leader in the mould of JFK or Franklin Roosevelt. He never said it himself, but America knew it was dealing with a political short-timer who refused to embrace big ideas but kept to a narrow, and ultimately terribly crooked, idea of what leadership and government meant.

Nixon was driven from office because he abused his powers. He used the state's security services to hound those he hated, he presided over crooked electoral finances and dirty tricks, and allowed his subordinates to act as if they, and the entire executive branch, were above the law. When Watergate happened it simply confirmed what the political elite had

known all along: the man was a crook who didn't deserve to sit in the White House. Nixon got the treatment he deserved.

Clinton began as the man from Hope who would return America to the politics of idealism. Those who whispered about his dubious character in those early days found themselves shut out and ignored.

Now we know for certain that Clinton was what we suspected all along. A liar and philanderer. But he is also a man who has abused his power, who has abused those who were weaker than him. Now that the lies of the Lewinsky affair have been exposed, do you really doubt that Paula Jones and Kathleen Willey (there are doubtless numerous others) were telling the truth. Remember Ms Jones, who said that the President had, in fact, exposed himself to her in an Arkansas hotel room. Or Ms Willey who testified that the President had kissed and groped

her against her will in the White House. Both women were in weak positions. Jones was a lowly clerk (later traduced by the Clinton spin machine as "trailer trash"), and Ms Willey was in need of a job. You may take the view that Clinton is telling the truth in denying his assaults on these women, or you can, as I do, accept their version of events. Both have been smeared by the best dirty tricks operation since Nixon's, both have had their reputations shredded in the public media.

The acts of consensual sex with a young intern are shabby, but not the stuff that demands expulsion from political office. It is the abuse of clearly vulnerable women like Jones and Willey that make up the real stuff of impeachment. What makes the removal of Clinton instinctually difficult to countenance for liberals, is the idea that it will represent a victory for the Republican right and all the ultra-conservative loonies who have long harboured a visceral hatred of the President. The sickening pleasure which the Lewinsky affair gives to Richard Nixon's heirs is one of the many depressing facts of this scandal.

Newt Gingrich and his followers hated the promise of a just society which Clinton held out at the beginning of his first term, and they helped to create a climate in which Americans grew to hate the idea of government, which led to the hobbling of Clinton's most ambitious plans to create health-care and educational services worthy of a hugely wealthy country. Newt Gingrich and his corporate kinsmen are not what America needs right now.

And yet, it is to them that Mr Clinton, with his lies and recklessness and

abuse, has handed the moral high ground. They have him where they want him, slowly roasting over a spit. They may well keep it up for the next two years, figuring, with epic cynicism, that a catastrophically damaged Clinton will ensure a Republican presidential victory. And so, like Clinton, they have made the pursuit of power for power's sake the defining ideal of American politics.

There is a longer term price to pay for this cynicism. I heard it in conversations on the streets of New York and Boston earlier this week. Repeatedly, I was told that Clinton's sexual carry-on did not matter. The economy is doing fine, so why worry? It is as if the events in Washington are a Hollywood movie, disconnected from the real lives and concerns of ordinary everyday America. This is understandable, but tragic. Something bigger than Bill Clinton or Lewinsky or Gingrich is being dragged through the gutter. Democracy itself is being debased.

I suspect that Mr Clinton will hang on for as long as the Democratic Party allows him to do so. Only when the polls slip - and so far they are holding up just fine - will the greymen come and tell him it is time to go. They are a weak and divided bunch, mesmerised by the polls and slaves to their own ambitions.

If Clinton did care about America, if he had a scintilla of concern for the contempt with which the next generation of Americans will view politics and government, he would resign now. By hanging on, Clinton is doing more than spoiling idealism. He is killing hope.



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MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

President Clinton faces impeachment • Trades Union Congress • Viagra and the NHS • ETA ceasefire • Ford Focus • George Wallace

TRADES UNION CONGRESS

Verdicts on the proceedings at this week's annual conference of the TUC at Blackpool

THE GUARDIAN

THE TUC's influence on micro-economic policy is greater than at the macro level, where its warnings about the dangers of a strong pound have gone unheeded. It is in macro-policy, however, where the self-interest of Labour and the TUC converges. Both have a vested interest in trying to reverse the growth of income inequality. If Labour doesn't narrow this gap then its raison d'être as a political party will be in doubt.

THE ECONOMIST

THE RELATIONSHIP between Peter Mandelson and the trade union movement has never been marked by much warmth. This week, the new Trade and Industry Secretary sought to make a fresh start. His speech to the TUC conference in Blackpool on 17 September contained a courageous assertion that a New Labour government would never "contract out" its responsibilities to the unions. But it also included plenty of conciliatory words. The mixture did not work - at times Mr Mandelson's speech seemed like a combination of flat jokes and applause lines greeted in stony silence. To many union barons he clearly remains "the prince of darkness".

THE SPECTATOR

UNUSUALLY FOR a general secretary of the boilermakers, John Edmonds is a graduate of Oriel College. This may explain why he feels the need to assert his proletarian credentials by boiler-mouthed oratory. On television he sounds like a little Hitler trying to imitate the real one.

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

WHAT CURIOUS twisting of definitions is going on here? By "greed", Mr Edmonds evidently means the rational pursuit of self interest. "Compassion", by contrast, is used by the Left to mean higher tax. Thus, working for yourself is greedy,

whereas paying yourself at others' expense is compassionate.

How many of the TUC delegates who cheered Mr Edmonds so lustily would turn down a £50,000 pay rise if they were offered it? In the private sector at least, almost all pay rises are "earned", in the sense of being paid for out of increased productivity. It is, admittedly, difficult to explain how one director can have worked hard enough to earn a bonus of, say, £1m. But the reason he is worth such a sum has nothing to do with how many hours he puts in. Rather, his pay is justified in terms of the profits he has made.

THE MIRROR

UNIONS ARE supposed to speak up for ordinary people and yesterday John Edmonds, the TUC President, certainly did. His language is not to be recommended, but what he said reflected the views of millions. Bosses who help themselves to a pay rise of tens of thousands, while forcing their workers to take a few thousand are, in Mr Edmonds words, "greedy bastards".

There was a time when some workers were simply envious of the money their bosses made. But that is not what is happening now. No one can nowadays describe ordinary employees, or their trade unions, as greedy.

They have learned to accept reasonable rises even if they don't like it. But to see the fat cats still licking the cream off company profits shows the lessons have not been learned at the top.

THE SUN

WELCOME TO the real world, brothers. Delegates at the TUC Conference discover one union they cannot support unconditionally - European Monetary Union.

Until now, most favoured signing up to the single currency as soon as possible. They hoped to win back via Brussels the power and influence stripped from them in Britain. But now, a growing band of unions have serious concerns about joining. They realize that full employment and the single currency do not mix.

We have no President

LOS ANGELES TIMES

MORE APOLOGIES won't restore this president's power, nor will a formidable White House campaign to defend this presidency against impeachment. What's needed is an explanation from the President of why he risked everything, and then lied so baldly about it, and an assurance that he has changed his ways.

Americans will forgive him for this trust, yet presidential power depends less on absolute trust than on an affirmative commitment of public trust. Without trust, Clinton has only the public's approval of how he is doing his job, which rests largely on the continued strength of the US economy, a perilous foundation, particularly with a third of the world in recession or worse.

Absent trust, America will remain mired in this controversy, unable to focus on the more important issues which need Washington's attention. Lacking trust, Clinton in effect has no presidency to defend, and the nation has no president to lead us. (Robert B Reich)

THE WASHINGTON POST

IF THIS scandal, which has so consumed a nation, is prolonged indefinitely, it will continue to weaken the presidency, Congress, the country, and the moral fabric of our society. With the serious challenges facing the only remaining superpower in the world, at home and abroad, the inability to provide strong leadership will take a toll far beyond the shame, embarrassment and anger we feel for the sins of this president. This nation has remained strong through crisis because we have not allowed crisis itself to control our fate. We always have had the good sense to do the right thing. The right thing now is to do whatever is necessary to bring closure to this matter.

The President cannot and should not escape punishment for lying to the nation and the grand jury. Neither does the most appropriate punishment rest with criminal prosecution, something rarely done in cases of perjury in a dismissed civil suit. It rests with the political process that has jurisdiction of the matter. That is why censure makes the most sense. It is the consummate political resolution that punishes the President without removing him from office. (Leon Panetta)



PRESIDENT CLINTON FACES IMPEACHMENT

One week after the release of the Starr report, the US press considers how the President should be judged and punished

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

AS CONGRESS takes early steps toward a possible impeachment, it's crucial that the process be fair - and be seen as fair. But Republicans may polarize things needlessly by voting to release thousands of pages of records supplied by independent counsel Kenneth Starr - plus the

videotape of President Clinton's grand jury testimony. The House Judiciary Committee's release of Mr Starr's referral on Friday was problematic, but defensible as an act of governmental openness, preferable to the spectacle of it leaking out in tactical dribs and drabs. But to dump this tape into the public domain before the committee has even started a

formal impeachment inquiry would be unfair, an act contrary to the practice of past independent counsels, and one smacking of a desire to stack the deck.

MIAMI HERALD

IF SOME of Mr Starr's evidence is made public, then in fairness all of it should be. That means releasing not just the President's testimony - the only testimony videotaped - but every other witness's relevant testimony.

Mr Clinton's hairsplitting lies, and Mr Starr's prurient pursuit of the President's inexplicably reckless personal conduct, make it imperative to let the public see, read, and weigh every shred of evidence. Moreover, better to have the full record out in public, all at once, than to have it leaked in selective dribs and drabs, as Mr Starr or his staff did earlier in the investigation. Enough of that.

So, to the House Judiciary Committee, this counsel: Let's have it all, the whole nine yards, now, even if it makes us all choke and throw up. There are worse prescriptions for the Republic right now than a good purgative.

NEW YORK TIMES

WOULD THE President's removal from office be in the national interest? The Judiciary Committee should now address that question, on the assumption that Mr Starr's accusations are substantially true. If the committee nonetheless concludes that the President's removal from office is not desirable, it can choose not to prosecute. This would open the way to outcomes other than trial and conviction.

Removing Mr Clinton from office might well be an excessive penalty, given the non-criminal, non-official character of his initial offence, as well as this society's disposition to cloak sexual behaviour from public exposure. If, for these or other reasons, the House concludes that the President's removal from office is not required, it can then consider censure. This would be the logical fallback for members who felt that no action at all would be too lenient. On the basis of what I now know, censure would seem to be the appropriate solution. (Elliott Richardson)

VIAGRA AND THE NHS

Following the licensing of the male potency drug Viagra, opinion on whether the Health Service should make it available

FINANCIAL TIMES

IN THE UK, the challenge for health ministers is to decide a set of principles that can be applied, not just to Viagra, but to other "lifestyle" drugs that are just over the medical horizon: obesity drugs and memory enhancers, for example. Viagra should plainly not be available on the NHS for purely recreational use. But given the misery impotence causes, the drug should be provided for people with a genuine clinical need: diabetics and those demonstrably impotent owing to prostate surgery or other definable clinical causes.

THE GUARDIAN

THE HEALTH Secretary expressed concerns that the new drug had created expectations which could prove "a serious drain", distorting already established NHS priorities. That's why the Health Secretary's move is so bold.

This is the first time a drug of known efficacy has been banned on cost grounds across the entire country. Previous governments have preferred to pass the buck to health authorities below them. This created the worst form of health rationing: postcode prescribing, where a patient's chance of obtaining a drug depends on where they live.

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

"I DON'T really think the NHS should be financing people waving their potency at a disco," said Mr Dobson on Monday, and he clearly has a point. In the circumstances, to wait and see what happens once Viagra is available on the private prescription must be sensible. In the United States, demand is said to have fallen by 50 per cent in recent weeks as the initial excitement has worn off.

THE EVENING STANDARD

THE NHS has been grossly abused by many people, including doctors, for many years. It would be the last straw, if its finances were pushed over the edge in the ludicrously frivolous cause of providing the public with free orgasms.

DAILY MAIL

THE THING which makes Viagra unique is that it is widely believed to enhance male sexual performance among those of advancing years. Those who try to persuade themselves that enhancing male sexual enjoyment chemically will also enhance women's pleasure should note one awkward fact: middle aged women are not rushing out to buy Viagra to improve the performance of their men folk. No, Viagra is strictly male fantasy land. (Claire Rayner)

ETA CEASEFIRE

Comments on the ceasefire announced this week by ETA, the terrorist Basque separatist movement

EL PAIS

CAUTION SHOULDN'T stretch so far as to make us deny that we're in a completely new situation. The unlimited ETA ceasefire removes from centre-stage the main obstacle to starting a political debate, to include the electorate which Herri Batasuna represents. It would be stupid to behave as if nothing had happened. The situation has changed, and opportunities are opening which didn't exist before. After so many years of terrorist nightmare, the politicians' hour has come, so it's vital that the two main parties are able to rise above their own conflict.

LE MONDE

AN "UNLIMITED" ETA ceasefire? It would be the first of its kind, and although there have been persistent rumours over the past few days, the news has still come as a great surprise.

It remains to be seen what to make of it, in all its complexity. We have to consider what is not said (for example, will there be an eventual disarmament by ETA as a proof of good faith?). And above all there are the electoral aspects: it is only a month until the regional elections at the end of October.

THE IRISH TIMES

THE IRA ceasefire left ETA as the last potent exponent of nationalist terrorism in Europe. The group had suffered many reverses, including the imprisonment of the entire central committee of its political wing, Herri Batasuna, last December. A ceasefire will presumably enable the moderate nationalists to form a government with the radicals. They are likely to pursue a programme for self-determination, and possibly even independence, for the Basque Country, a prospect which is anathema to Madrid.

LAUNCH OF THE FORD FOCUS

The motoring press reviews the dramatically styled successor to the Ford Escort, Britain's best-selling car over the last 30 years

TOP GEAR

BLOKES DOWN the pubs beware. Here we have crushing evidence that one of your most dearly held beliefs - often discussed in great depth after a few pints have been sunk - is now a false conviction. That conversation which began some time in the early Eighties with the words "Motors, they all look the same these days - it's the computers they're using to design them", and has been rattling on ever since, can now be stopped dead with the simple little question: "What about the new Ford Focus then?"

CAR

THE FOCUS is not perfect though - no car ever is - so here's a list of faults and not-so-goods: the grab handles aren't damped like the VW's, the ventilation is a bit weak, and the buttons at the base of the console (air-con, recirculation, heated front and rear screens) are



distinct. And that, on the basis of this brief drive, is it. Which you can take to be a measure of just how good this car is. On this showing it's the most cleverly thought out, most capable car in its class. Best of all, for the enthusiast, is that it looks refreshingly different, and is genuinely entertaining to drive. It is vastly better than any Escort has ever been.

WHAT CAR?

IN A few months, we'll all have got used to the Ford Focus.

AUTOCAR

FORD'S NEW Focus is a brilliant road performer. Impressive handling, performance and looks combine to make the Focus a hot competitor to the Golf and Astra. A big step on from the Escort in every way.

IN MEMORIAM

US comment on the death of former Alabama Governor George Wallace

THE ATLANTA CONSTITUTION

I KNEW George C. Wallace, longtime governor of Alabama, as a hater. When I was growing up in Monroeville, Ala, he symbolized all that was racist, backward and embarrassing about the South. Dominating Alabama politics for nearly a generation, he represented a malignant force that would deny me full citizenship. Billboards with his slogan "Stand Up for Alabama" tread that as stand against the federal government's orders on school integration) stood on the roadways.

For black children like me - black children whose parents pushed, and pleaded, and sacrificed, and prayed, to gain us decent educations - the crusade to deny us equal educational opportunity was the



cruellest edge of the lash of Jim Crow. The Wallace who died on Sunday at the age of 79 was not the man I remember.

He had long since renounced segregation and gone about the business of seeking redemption, apologizing at black churches and in other forums for his divisive past. He even gained some substantial black support in his last gubernatorial win in 1962. I believe he was sincere in his political conversion, and I believe he deserved to be forgiven. But I cannot forget. (Cynthia Tucker)

BALTIMORE SUN

GEORGE WALLACE was God's gift to Americans in search of a conscience. Before him, racism was cloaked in layers of bureaucratic legalisms, in mean little local traditions, in people so cowardly that they hid their identities beneath hooded sheets. Wallace told Americans to choose up sides by skin colour, and thus made thoughtful people confront the true destructiveness of the racial divide: not only that it deprived black people of a fair chance, but diminished everyone else who'd paid empty lip service to American ideals. (Michael Olesker)

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"Cool Britannia may well be dying of hypothermia." Stephen Bayley, who resigned as creative director of the Millennium Dome in January

"We want to make the North East the North Best." Tony Blair, speaking while visiting his Sedgefield constituency

"One morning he said he wanted to commit suicide. I'd got fed up, so I opened the window and said, 'jump'. It was the last time he mentioned suicide." Artist Françoise Gilot, recalling her life as Pablo Picasso's companion

"Why try to take a decision now when the facts are not known?" Lord Hurd, former Tory Foreign Secretary, on William Hague's party poll on joining the euro

"Whenever my character was involved in a sexy scene, my father would go into a corner and cry, and my gran didn't like it very much." Daniela Nardini, who played a micro-skirted solicitor in the TV hit *This Life*

MISCELLANEOUS

Stories from around the world

TIMES OF INDIA

CASANOVA IS being remembered, 200 years after his death, through a lavish exhibition in Venice. Which is fine, for he is the showpiece of a breed that had been there before him, and shall always be there. All the world loves a lover, and the man who wins numerous hearts is eyed with envy by men and secret admiration by women, despite society's ostensible disapproval of his ways. It has been established that Casanova had only 132 affairs in his 73 years, which has surprised many. For short-term affairs, lovers sometimes need very little qualification. A hotel porter in Venice has reportedly claimed to have enjoyed intimacy with 8,000 women; Casanova's 132 looks like chickenfeed in comparison. Even after making allowances

for exaggeration, the actual figure must be impressive. Psychologist Lydia Flem, who is writing Casanova's biography, offers a Freudian explanation of his lifestyle. She feels he went after women because he missed his mother, and loved to be dominated. She calls him a feminist, which is perhaps appropriate. The labour of love of analysing "masculine mystique" should go to a woman.

their wanderings take them into Montana, where ranchers fear they could spread brucellosis to domestic cattle. There's never been a case of buffalo giving that disease to domestic animals. Indeed, the National Academy of Sciences says the risk of such transmission is close to zero. Nonetheless, for years the feds have rounded up and killed the buffalo.

DENVER POST

THE FEDERAL government plan to slaughter thousands of Yellowstone National Park bison is nonsense. Yellowstone is home to America's only remaining natural, free-roaming buffalo herd. In winter, the animals migrate to lower altitudes in search of food, but

SUNDAY TIMES

"I'M PROUD of my body, proud of my Zulness, proud of my virginity," said the 16-year-old, as along with thousands of other near-naked schoolgirls, she paraded in Durban's King Park Stadium. She was doing her bit in the battle against the scourge of Aids and teenage pregnancy.

السلامة

THE WEEKLY MUSE

BY MARTIN NEWELL



The blackberries and dog-rose hips
Grow swollen by the damp
And tremble in northwesterlies
By Wandlebury Camp,
And as the gale on Gog-Magog
Blows south to Babraham College
We join a Cambridge scientist
Who passes us this knowledge:

"A newborn lamb brought up by goats
Or newborn goat, vice versa,
May grow to love his foster-mum
More than his own precursor.
The upshot of this strange research
And ultimate conclusion
Supports the work of Sigmund Freud
On Oedipal confusion."

In other words, men go for girls
Much more than any others
Who have a thing about them which
Reminds them of their mothers.
So could this be the reason why
The women that I choose
Always wear WAAF uniforms,
Gas masks and clumpy shoes?

According to a Mori poll
Our nation's taste in art
Is comfortable, like Constable
(Cue shot of rustic cart).
The people in the provinces
Know what they like, no doubt,
So objects such as piles of bricks
Or pickled sheep are out.

The TUC are furious,
They rail and rage and hector –
An iron hand upon the purse
Afflicts the public sector;
Unless you're reappointed
As Ofsted Chief Inspector
Or hold the magic title
"Millennium Dome Director".

The National Year of Reading
Is happening, as of now,
And should you wish to try it
It's one stop after Slough.

As mentioned in the media
The trains are still a mess
So, late for Geri's auction,
I failed to get that dress,
The union jack creation
Which barely hid her bum,
It would have done my girlfriend
(Who looks quite like my mum).

THE WEASEL

An evergreen intruder from down under overshadows the smartest of trees at Weasel Acres, while a sugary Ginger keeps smiling

I don't know if you've noticed it, but American magazines ranging from *Time* to *National Enquirer* have recently gained an unusual prominence on newsstands. Since the journal I'm looking out for is a quarterly, I may have to wait a while to gain its specialist insight into recent disclosures from Washington DC. I mean, of course, my long-time favourite, *Cigar Aficionado*.

It was through this publication that I first learned of the President's fondness for cigars about two-and-a-half years ago. Revealing that the great man liked to flourish a stogie while mulling on the world's problems in the Oval Office, *Cigar Aficionado* noted that an official ban on smoking in the White House prevented him from actually lighting up, which might explain a lot about subsequent events.

ASIDE FROM the fact that you require a machete to make any inroad, the garden of Weasel Villas is unexceptional in every respect. However, it is not every suburban demesne that can claim to have a significant connection with contemporary literature. I refer to the vegetative star of Murray Bail's acclaimed novel *Eucalyptus* (Harvill, £12.99). Owing something to the Scheherazade legend, the yarn is set in present-day New South Wales, where a settler promises his beautiful daughter to the first suitor who can name every one of the hundreds of species of gum tree on his property.

I don't think that I would have got very far, since I cannot apply a name

to the evergreen bully which overshadows Weasel Villas – at any rate, nothing polite enough to print within the sedate ambit of this column.

The object under advisement is hard to miss. A straggly monster perhaps 40 feet tall, it corresponds to Bail's descriptions: "It's an egotistical tree. Standing apart it draws attention to itself and soaks up moisture and all signs of life, such as harmless weeds and grass, for a radius beyond its roots." Frighteningly, this antipodean interloper also appears in a volume called *The Strangest Plants in the World*: "The gum tree is one of the fastest growing trees and is also known to take enormous volumes of water from the soil," Mrs W, of course, is to blame. She planted the eucalyptus about two decades ago, before I entered her life.

"It was all right when it was regularly pruned," she admitted, "but I somehow forgot about it for a couple of years. By then it was too late..." The result is a corner of south London that is for ever Aussie: a gargantuan frigate of foliage upheld by a trunk as substantial as a gourmand's waist. You can almost see the spear-like branches expanding to sustain the ceaseless operation of this photosynthetic factory. Much to our inconvenience – and our neighbour's fury – the arrow-shaped leaves descend throughout the year. In high winds, the whole tree shimmies like Kenyan's fly-whisk.

Don't think I haven't tried to do something about the brute. One Sunday, I decided to cut it down to size. After heaving away like a man possessed, I had virtually sawn through a

mighty bough before I realised it was directly above my head. Despite dodging death by a hair's-breadth, I received scant applause from Mrs W.

Next year, when the reinvigorated plant made a takeover bid for the air space above our neighbour's garden, it seemed wise to call in a tree surgeon. "We'll take 20 feet off," he announced. "You won't need to call us for another few years." Our eucalyptus thrived wonderfully on this savaging and has



now assumed the proportions of a sequoia. Something tells me that this egotistical timber has a date with the chainsaw. At least, I'll know its name by then: kindling.

Though I say it myself, my contribution to the Weasel Villas arboretum is much more palatable: *Morus nigra* or black mulberry. The ancients regarded the mulberry as the wisest of plants, since it is last to come into leaf and first to shed. Even now, the heart-shaped leaves of our small tree are discoloured and mottled with decay.

Little more than a twig when it arrived through the post, the plant showed no sign of fruiting in its first three years. We'd given up hope, but in the following summer, four berries magically appeared – as wonderful on the taste-buds as they are disastrous on clothing. For the past two years, the tree has produced impressive crops. Sadly, we have been able to sample no more than a dozen fruit on both occasions, since the berries are unripe when we depart for our summer break and have shrivelled to currants by the time we return. If the plant is all that clever, you'd think it might wait.

I CANNOT remember an odder cookery series than *Upper Crust*, currently on BBC-2, which involves a moon-faced nob called Christopher Sykes whipping up quirky recipes at various stately homes. In the first programme, set at Sledmere House, the Sykes family's pile in North Yorkshire, young master Christopher was indulged by a creaky retinue of retainers as he boiled ham with hay and made a pudding by pouring warm cream into a basin from the top of a step ladder. Both dishes, it has to be said, looked pretty tempting.

As I happened to be passing Sledmere House the other day, I popped in to see what was on offer in the tea-room. Though I was lusting for a hay-and-ham sandwich, the menu listed nothing more outré than bread-and-butter pudding. I suppose that's the nearest we lower orders will get to the upper crust.

Rightly, the Hon Christopher sets

great store by his family's tradition of fine food and drink. None had a more intimate association than a lugubrious cove from the turn of the century called Sir Tatton Sykes, a toadying butt of Edward VII. When the King saw fit to pour a glass of wine over his head, Sir Tatton famously responded, "As your Majesty pleases." The drenching of the poor sap with ever-increasing quantities of liquor followed by his cringing response became a monarchic set-piece.

Sir Tatton's dinners were more peaceful after Edward's death. Until a night in 1916, that is, when he was informed that Sledmere House was burning down. "But my pudding," was the knight's alarmed response. "I haven't finished my pudding."

DAWLING IN the wake of Mrs W as she pillaged our local Sainsbury's, my eye was caught by a confection which proudly boasted, "First ever photographic edible image on a cake in the UK." Via this miracle of culinary technology, the five Spice Girls were put into fit to bust on the iced topping of a Genoise sponge. Truly a landmark for the digestible daguerreotype. But hang on a mo. Five Spice Girls? Were the makers the only people in Britain unaware that their gaudy should now contain no Ginger? All was explained when I spotted that the best-before date of this toothsome tribute was 20 September. Another example dated 5 October carried a new snap of the downsized combo on the box. Oddly enough, Geri still grins on the icing. I just hope she's getting a slice of the cake.

SPIRIT OF THE AGE

PAUL VALLELY

Stuff and nonsense (I think)

THERE WAS a chap on the telly the other day who was a professor of Millennial Studies. It does not sound like a job with much in the way of long-term prospects. Presumably redundancy looms in 18 months or so, which is why he appeared to have such sympathy with the apocalyptic gloom of the last millennium.

How, he asked, can people say the year 1000 was a time of terrible superstition when the majority of US citizens today believe that aliens have landed and that the Pentagon is hiding the fact from us?

He had a point. The vehicles may change but there are some forms of belief which have remained pretty constant throughout human history. What went on in the oracle at Delphi 3,000 years back is fundamentally not much different from what goes on today on Brighton pier.

The search for meaning in life takes many different forms, but the attempt to acquire knowledge of the future has been with us throughout history. It still is. According to an opinion poll earlier this year 43 per cent of British women, and 24 per cent of the nation's men believe that the future can be predicted by fortune tellers.

Which is why, earlier this week, I found myself at the seaside in search of the kind of mystical guidance which is presumably what draws our political masters to such places to hold their annual party conferences. Brighton, where the Lib Dems open the season

next week, seemed as good a place as any to start.

In a New-Agey little back-street shop, with crystals and pebbles in the window, I came across Maggie, a sun-ravaged woman in her fifties with fingernails as long as claws painted the colour of primroses. For £15 for half an hour she spread a Tarot pack across a square of black velvet and told me that I was at a crossroads with many possibilities bubbling under. I would be working abroad in November and a big change and a new direction at work was coming in 1999. I might also have some legal or business difficulty and would benefit from a spot of spiritual healing. Any questions?

Yes, what's this card mean? I asked, pointing to one of the rows of Tarot characters spread out before me. Not that kind of question, she said, something about your life. OK, tell me more about this travel. I asked, deciding not to use the traditional phrase which is the punchline of Alan Bennett's joke about the man who goes to the doctor having tried to cure his piles with an old wives' remedy of used tea leaves. (Man drops trousers. Doctor says: "Well, it doesn't seem to have cured the haemorrhoids but I can tell you that you're about to go on a long journey.")

Actually I was going on a fairly short one. Halfway down the pier in a hexagonal little booth I came across the Indian Palmist Rai, son of the famous Pundit established in the UK since 1952, and brother of the "top clairvoy-

ant on Scarborough seafarers in 1992". But he was having a phone line put in and asked if I could come back later.

To pass the time I had my palm read by a computerised screen (£3 for Chinese and Western astrology and palm-reading). "It works on your mounds," said the girl who operated it. The result was disappointing. It was just the kind of anodyne stuff you find in the horoscopes in the local paper. (On one paper I worked for, the editor sacked the sub-editor who wrote the horoscopes because, he announced, they were boring – and he gave the job to a bewildered sports reporter who was passing by. But this was not as memorable as the sacking of *The Sun's* astrologer: the letter of dismissal began, "As you will know...")

So I went back to the real-life Indian palm-reader (who was born and bred a Yorkshireman, it turned out). "You are a man who is independent and very lucky," he began. *Independent?* Had he seen the press card in my wallet when I handed over the 40 quid (for two hands and full face reading). I was ambivalent about lucky; while waiting I had won £16 in tokens on a fruit machine. But the Brighton Pier vouchers I exchanged then for were not valid for palmistry he said.

Still it was worth the cash to learn that I will live past the age of 75, will never be broke even if I'll never be a millionaire and that – wait for it – I have big changes coming over the next three years including many trips



abroad! This had been in the Tarot tool

So what is going on here? Psychic connection? Broad-brush guesswork? Or an astute piecing together of the fragments of information the punter lets slip in the opening conversational pleasantries. Never been for a reading before – must be at a crossroads in life with questions to answer. And so on. But if all that is fairly innocuous the same cannot be said for the specific warnings I was offered. I am to watch out for a backstabber in the office whose initials I was given. The malignity of such predictions is that they can lodge in the subconscious, destroy trust and become self-fulfilling – as with

the woman promised a Capricorn boyfriend with a red sports car who promptly went off and found one.

There is something else too. What happens in the womb-like places in which these clairvoyants operate is that you pass control of your life over to something other. You enter into a relationship in which you cede power and responsibility entirely. And yet there is none of the spiritual, transcendent or transforming quality of religion about it. I reckon it's bollocks, I said to the taxi-driver on the way home. "Ah, but what if it isn't, and you've ignored it?" he said. I would, I told him, just have to take the chance.

DAYS LIKE THESE

19 SEPTEMBER 1922

ERNEST HEMINGWAY (right) reports on Germany's inflation crisis

"There were no marks to be had in Strasbourg, the mounting exchange rate had cleaned the bankers out days ago, so we changed some French money in the railway station at Kehl. For 10 francs I received 670 marks. Ten francs amounted to about 90 cents in Canadian money. That 90 cents lasted Mrs Hemingway and me for a day of heavy spending and at the end of the day we had 120 marks left! Kehl's best hotel, which is a very well turned-out place, served a five-course table d'hôte meal for 120 marks, which amounts to 15 cents in our money. The same meal could not be duplicated in Strasbourg, three miles away, for a dollar. Because of the customs regulations, which are very strict on persons returning from Germany, the French cannot come over to Kehl and buy up all the cheap goods they would like to. But they can come over and eat. It is a



sight every afternoon to see the mob that storms the German pastry shops and tea places. The Germans make very good pastries, wonderful pastries, in fact, that, at the present tumbling mark rate, the French of Strasbourg can buy for a less amount than the smallest French coin, the one sou piece....

"As the last of the afternoon tea-ers and pastry-eaters went Strasbourg-wards across the bridge over the Rhine the first of the exchange pirates coming over to raid Kehl for cheap dinners began to arrive. The two streams passed each other on the bridge and the two disconsolate German border guards looked on."

20 SEPTEMBER 1980

PHILIP TOYNBEE, critic and journalist, observes in his journal:

"Sudden wild nostalgia for my earliest, cloudiest Communist days; the pamphlet John Cornford sent me at Rugby, a black silhouette of Lenin with arm outstretched against a field of deep maroon; my first meeting of the October Club at Oxford....

"How clearly it all comes back to me now, those passionate longings for brotherhood with the whole world and the conviction that my own emancipation, freedom, growth were directly dependent on working for that glorious fraternity. What worlds unfolding! What wild and confident happiness! Never for a moment have I felt this kind of ecstasy for my religious aspirations. And although it is true, of course, that Communism was a god who failed, the hope was real enough. Bliss was it in that dawn to be alive – however false the dawn."

IAN IRVINE

Remember the rights of the savage

CLASSIC
PODIUM

From two speeches delivered by the Liberal Party leader William Gladstone during the Midlothian campaign (NOVEMBER, 1879)

I AM not here before you as one of those who have ever professed to believe that the state which society has reached permits us to make a vow of universal peace, and of renouncing, in all cases, the alternative of war. But I am here to say that a long experience of life leads me, not towards any abstract doctrine upon the subject, but to a deeper and deeper conviction of the enormous mischiefs of war, even under the best and most favourable circumstances, and of the mischiefs indescribable and the guilt unredeemed of causeless and unnecessary wars.

Look back over the pages of history; consider the feelings with which we now regard wars that our forefathers in their time supported with the same pernicious fanaticism, of which we have had some developments in this country within the last three years.

Consider, for example, that the American War, now condemned by 999 out of every 1,000 persons in this country, was a war which for years was enthusiastically supported by the mass of the population. And then see how powerful and deadly are the fascinations of passion and of pride; and if it be true that the errors of former times are recorded for our instruction, in order that we may avoid their repetition, then I beg and entreat you, be on your guard against these deadly fascinations; do not suffer appeals to

national pride to blind you to the dictates of justice.

Remember the rights of the savage, as we call him. Remember that the happiness of his humble home, remember that the sanctity of life in the hill villages of Afghanistan among the winter snows, is as inviolable in the eye of Almighty God as can be your own. Remember that He who has united you together as human beings in the same

flesh and blood, has bound you by the law of mutual love; that that mutual love is not limited by the shores of this island, is not limited by the boundaries of Christian civilization; that it passes over the whole surface of the earth, and embraces the meanest along with the greatest in its unmeasured scope.

And, therefore, I think that in appealing to you ungrudgingly to open your own feelings, and bear your own part in a political crisis like this, we are making no inappropriate demand, but are beseeching you to fulfil a duty which belongs to you, which, so far from involving any departure from your character as women, is associated with the fulfilment of that character and the performance of its duties; the neglect of which would in future times be to you a source of pain and just mortification, and the fulfilment of which will serve to glid your own future years with sweet remembrances, and to warrant you in hoping that, each in your own place and sphere, you have raised your voice for justice, and have striven to mitigate the sorrows and misfortunes of mankind.

THE PRIME Minister has said that there is one day in the year on which sense and truth is to be heard. On that day, the Prime Minister made one of the most unhappy and ominous allusions ever made by a minister of this

country. He quoted certain words, easily rendered as "Empire and Liberty", words of a Roman statesman, and he quoted them as words which were capable of legitimate application to the position and circumstances of England.

I affirm that nothing can be more fundamentally unsound, more practically ruinous, than the establishment of British policy. What, gentlemen, was Rome? Rome was indeed an imperial state, you may tell me – a state having a mission to subdue the world; but a state whose very basis it was to deny the equal rights, to proscribe the independent existence, of other nations. That was the Roman idea.

No doubt the word "Empire" was qualified with the word "Liberty". But what did the two words "Liberty" and "Empire" mean in a Roman mouth? They meant "Liberty for ourselves, Empire over the rest of mankind".

I say it indicates a frame of mind, the policy of denying to others the rights that we claim ourselves. No doubt, Rome may have had its work to do, and Rome did its work. But modern times have brought a different state. Modern times have established a sisterhood of nations, equal, independent; each of them built up under that legitimate defence which public law affords to every nation, living within its own borders, and seeking to perform its own affairs.

All sugar and no gossip

CLOSE ENCOUNTER

JOANNA BRISCOE GREASES UP TO NEWSREADER PHIL GAYLE OVER BREAKFAST

As you are probably unaware, this is National Breakfast Week. Yes, surprise surveys inform us that a simple session in the breakfast nook boosts our brain power, well-being, relaxation levels, creativity and physical endurance. A bit like illegal drugs, Brazilian martial arts and sexual intercourse, then.

To drive the point home, a series of Power Breakfasts, whatever they may be, have been held across the nation organised by Kellogg's and Breakthrough Breast Cancer campaign. A round of boiled eggs with soldiers is the new Prozac. The solution to the Viagra delay, one might venture, thus with alarming aptness, my date for the morning was Phil Gayle - that loquacious enclosed in a telly in the *The Big Breakfast*'s studio, the one who raps out the hard news before turning into a weather boy. As for breakfast, I was scarcely in need of encouragement. Who are those people who "forget" to eat, who are sickened by a simple slice of Granary, who charge around fuelled by caffeine, aspartame and a few puffs of tar? I require lard. The nation needs to be goaded into eating breakfast? Why, I have two or three, my 8am carbo, my 11am grease and at least a couple of bananas before lunch.

I met Phil in London's Camden Town, at George & Niki's Golden Grill, a snot-happy greasy spoon that doubles as a palace of kitsch with singed edges, the kind of paradise with a peeling ceiling found in the

East Village before it was tarted up. Signed photos of *EastEnders* stars, Spice Girls and All Saints nestle among the grilles, wine bottles and Sixties magazine collages. Even more groaningly appropriate, the queen of spangled breakfast anarchy herself, Denise Van Outen, eats here. To my displeasure, Phil's publicist hove into view to supervise my line of questioning. After some gentle ushering, pointing and icy encouragement, she sat on a separate table.

"A cup of tea with four sugars is fine," said Phil as I gabbled my order for eggs, toast, tomatoes and mushrooms. So the matutinal pig-out is now a stylish panacea. Hence we gallantly attacked our theme. "You see," said Phil, "I don't really eat breakfast. Actually I've got into the habit of eating a couple of chocolate croissants, but that's only because I now have a taste for the chocolate at that time of day."

In fact, our hero rises at 4.30am and does not eat properly until 2pm. What we are watching, then, with his mastery of the smooth segue between Miss Monica Lewinsky and the scattered shower, is a starving man on a sugar high. Yet he seems healthy, relaxed and blessed with impressive cerebral impulses. Strange, that. Enough of the subject. Quite enough. What we really want to know, Phil, is does a 4.30 start affect your love life? ("No, No") And what's the juice on Johnny and Denise?

A growling started up from the publicist. "I don't know anything about Johnny and Denise, I rarely

see them," said Phil discreetly. But what about all those rumours that Johnny and Denise used to flirt and now they're jealous of each other? A harking started up at the next table.

Thus we turned instead to the happy world of Phil's career: Birmingham and Manchester-raised, after stints as a students' union president, a model and a radio presenter, Phil got his *Big Breakfast* break, and is now presenting on Channel 4's *Evening News*.

"Come on, tell me about Johnny and Denise flirting then," I hissed when Cerberus wasn't looking.

"What interests me is that it's a testament to how good they are," said Phil. "There's none of that my turn, your turn, there's the pair of them,

name-dropping babble in the gloom behind us rose to a crescendo as Phil was grabbed by an aproned owner bearing a Polaroid camera.

'Come on, tell me all about Johnny and Denise flirting, then,' I hissed when Cerberus wasn't looking

and they just mesh." Hackles were rising. A louder commotion of barks was threatened. However, a celebrity interruption intervened. The

Assailed by an alarming barrage of celebrity-boasting from both the owner and a customer, I suddenly found myself not in a funky greasy

spoon but a veritable Hall of Fame. "The Spice Girls signed a contract here for an advert," owner George almost shouted. "The only one that was nice out of the whole lot of them was little Emma."

"I've worked with a lot of famous celebrities," interrupted a customer who turned out to be Paul Davis - you know, the one who played an Ewok in *Star Wars*.

Noel (Gallagher) was here the day before he married, getting seriously drunk," declared George. "We don't put them up on a pedestal." Meanwhile, Paul Davis was proffering shiny five-by-eights

of himself dressed as a furry Ewok before producing a snap of himself beside Koo Stark.

By now, I was feeling pleasantly overwhelmed. *The Big Breakfast*'s very own Phil Gayle had been snapped for the archives and it was time to leave.

"Only cool dudes and babes enter," bears the legend on a blown-up Polaroid of the great Denise outside the café. Forget the Groucho, celebrity HQ is an endearing, clubby dive among the roaring drunks and bric-a-brac of Camden Town. And it was time for my second breakfast.



Tea, eggs, toast, tomatoes, mushrooms and plenty of sugar: Phil Gayle and Joanna Briscoe stoke up for the day ahead

Nicola Kurtz

WIN EXCLUSIVE COUTURE TICKETS

The London Lighthouse and Canon UK Ltd have come together to present Canon Designs for Life, outfits inspired by the red ribbon. 100 of the world's top designers have each created an outfit, drawing inspiration from the loop of red ribbon worn to promote awareness of HIV and AIDS. The designers include Giorgio Armani, Versace, Alexander McQueen and Vivienne Westwood.

The London Lighthouse is Europe's largest centre for people affected with HIV and AIDS. Its patrons include HRH Princess Margaret, Elton John and Jasper Conran and many more. The event is expected to raise somewhere in the region of £100,000 on the night and additional funds at a later date from auctioning the creations.

There is an obvious synergy between fashion and photography, especially for Canon. Its EOS range is a popular choice for fashion photographers and with the advent of Canon's fashionable IXUS range, the Canon camera is as likely to feature on the catwalk as well as behind the scenes.

The London Lighthouse, Canon UK Ltd and The Independent have joined forces to offer you tickets to the spectacular Canon Designs for Life catwalk show. The star studded event on **Monday 21st September 1998** begins with the fashion show at the Park Lane Hilton and then continues with an aftershow party at Madame Tussauds.

All you have to do to enter this competition is dial the number below, answer the following question on the line and leave your name, full address and a telephone number where you can be contacted on Saturday 19th September between 6pm - 7pm.

Q...In photographic terms, what is APS an abbreviation of?

The four first prizes are pairs of tickets to Canon Designs for Life and a Canon IXUS camera - the ultimate fashion accessory.

There are three second prizes of IXUS L-1's and 50 runners up will receive passes to the V & A Museum where amongst other attractions, you will find the Canon Photography Gallery.

0930 563 433

Lines close at 5pm on Saturday 19th September 1998

Canon
Designs For Life
Outfits Inspired By The Red Ribbon

THE INDEPENDENT

Calls are 50p per minute at all times and will last no longer than 2 minutes. Please leave a daytime contact number as all ticket winners will be notified on Saturday 19th September. Winners picked at random after lines close 5pm Saturday 19th September. Usual Independent Newspaper (UK) rules apply. Editor's decision is final.

With the greatest of ease

Despite the cynicism about what is going to fill the Dome, there is one idea that is really taking off. By Cayte Williams

In August this year, 3,000 people applied to get into the Millennium Dome. But they weren't over-keen punters wanting a peek at a work-in-progress, they were young hopefuls after a job.

Over the summer, The New Millennium Experience Company advertised in circus schools and performing-arts centres throughout the country for aspiring artists to occupy the central space in the Dome. The lofty eyesore is 50m high at its tallest point - about the same height as Nelson's Column. Something had to be done for an estimated daily audience of 12,000 that didn't involve low-flying aircraft.

The people at the Dome are giving little away, but apparently, we're in for a light-and-music show with lots of trapeze dare-devilling and acrobatics. Rumour has it that it will be a cross between the Notting Hill Carnival, a football match and a rock concert, with Peter Gabriel doing the music. But don't let that put you off.

Out of the 3,000 who replied to the adverts, 800 were selected for regional auditions. The NMEC's Circus Training Project set off on a national search for gymnasts, trampolinists, trapeze artists, divers, dancers and rock-climbers in places like Glasgow, Cardiff and Norwich. Finally, the circus came to town last week for the London auditions. Kids from *Fame*, *Flashdance* fans and would-be members of the Flying Trapeze flocked to the capital's hub of spit'n'sawdust life, Circus Space in Hoxton - a labyrinth of rooms with trapezes and exercise bars.

They bounced through body-conditioning exercises, acted up in the performance classes and contorted on the trapeze. The auditions started at 8.30am, and by 5.30pm everyone was exhausted. So why did they do it? "The Millennium is the biggest thing ever," said Amber Noble, a diminutive 16-year-old from Stevenage who was taking a break between auditions. "I've been doing gymnastics since I was nine and this is a chance to put all my years of training into something good. I thought the strength work was really hard."



Mark Morreau, a trapeze specialist, takes some young hopefuls through their swings in preparation for the aerial acrobatics spectacular in the Millennium Dome

Geoff Caddick

I had to keep jumping on and off boxes which were bigger than me."

There wasn't a spinning bow tie in sight as lithe young things clad in unitards and track pants solemnly and silently went through their paces while being marked out of 10. The only merriment to be found was in the performance classes where four young people expressed "joy" with varying degrees of loud whooping noises. So what kind of weird circus are we in for? "The raison d'être of the auditions is to generate a new performance form," explains Mica Bergese, artistic director for the show, who has worked with Mick Jagger and Tina Turner. "There is

no contemporary circus or circus-based performance tradition in this country. Circus is about aerial performers now. It has moved on tremendously abroad, while we're stuck in the past here. Circus is not a variety show any longer."

Apparently, while us Brits were content with clowns and ballerinas-on-horseback, the rest of Europe was streaking miles ahead. France and Germany, Canada (remember Cirque du Soleil?) and eastern Europe have developed a form of circus that depends on aerial acrobatics rather than large red noses. Now, it is all more *The Brothers Karamazov* than the brothers Cottle.

Bergese is hoping that, after a year in the world's biggest top, the circus tradition will have truly taken root over here. Successful candidates will be offered a place on a one-year Certificate in Higher Education in circus skills that has been set up in collaboration with Circus Space and the Central School of Speech and Drama. Then there will be one final audition to make sure everybody's up to speed, and the show'll be on the road.

"It's a great opportunity for someone like me," said 25-year-old Ken Fanning from Dublin as he finished his gruelling day. "I did a one-year course in circus media at Bristol and went back to Ireland to

start off a circus career, but there's very little opportunity there apart from street juggling and acrobatics. If I pass the auditions, I'll get to live in London for two years and I'm sure I'll get a job after the Millennium circus show."

For some people, the opportunity to do a grant-aided course in London was enough. "I came from the Belfast Community Centre and I want to do a course but it's too costly," said Simon Llewellyn, an 18-year-old with a spiky haircut and a manic grin. "The only way I can do this is through the Millennium Dome. I've been in a circus for quite a while now and this is an opportunity to see what I could

learn here and take back to Belfast. I loved taking part in everything to see what I could and couldn't do. They've got really good trainers who tell you what you are doing wrong."

Such was the lure of the course and the job that people applied from as far afield as Australia, the Netherlands and Majorca.

"I really liked doing the dance and the performance this morning," enthused Lennie Visser, a pixie in a black unitard. "I came to the auditions from Amsterdam because I want the chance to perform in front of so many people. I do trapeze in a children's theatre company and I heard about the

auditions when a friend of mine sent me the details from Circus Space with a note saying 'this is for you'."

"I went to a circus school in Brussels three years ago," continued Lennie, "and I've worked 10 metres high, but 50 metres seems really high to me. I'm quite happy to spend the millennium new year in London rather than Amsterdam. If you are in this show, your prospects will be very good when it's over."

Who knows, by new year 2001, we could be a nation of trapeze-lovers, passionate about acrobatics and aerial-displays? One thing is guaranteed though. We're bound to leave the Dome with neckache.

MY WEEK

SEVEN DAYS IN THE LIFE OF ANN CRAIG, DIRECTOR OF THE IMPOTENCE ASSOCIATION

Sunday
Got up late, picked my boyfriend up from the airport and waited for the phone to ring. I came into this job as a counsellor but since May, after Viagra was licensed in the US, I have spent from morning to night and most weekends talking to the press. To be honest, I will be glad when the hype over Viagra dies down and I can get on with the job of running the organisation.

I am 37 and no, I don't have a family. I don't have time for sex, never mind children. I spent five years working with terminally ill AIDS patients. When I went into it, AIDS was a totally taboo subject and people said "What do you want to do that for?" When I got this job, I got the same reaction. It's helping people who need help but can't talk about it. That's what I like. Men find it easier to talk to a woman about impotence. There is this competitive element that makes it difficult for them to talk to another man. That's why so many have suffered in silence. They are only just beginning to talk openly about it now.

Monday
We knew Viagra was due to be licensed on Tuesday, so we were expecting a quiet day - the lull before the storm. All the staff had lunch at a restaurant near the office in Tooting, south-west London, thinking it would be the last chance for some time. I came back from lunch and the statement from Frank Dobson, that Viagra would be banned on the NHS until guidance to doctors is issued, was on my desk, together with a million requests from the press for comment. I was horrified by his remarks on the radio about Viagra being a recreational drug. It is not recreational and it is not an aphrodisiac. It is ridiculous to argue, as Dobson did, that spending on Viagra might take away from spending on



Ann Craig: 'Men find it easier to talk to a woman about their impotence'

Claudia Frickemeier

cancer or heart treatments. Are they going to ban all drugs except those for life-threatening conditions? What about drugs for hay fever? Why should someone with diabetes spend their life unable to have sex when there is a treatment to help them? We get about 200 calls a day to our helpline, 20 per cent of them from women. Some are very distressing - I have had men crying down the phone, suicidal. The women call desperate, not knowing what to do, with their marriage breaking up. The publicity about Viagra has helped. People are talking about the problem, asking their doctors, when they wouldn't have before.

Tuesday
I did my first interview from home, in Ealing, at 7am and continued giving interviews throughout the day. Viagra got its European licence as expected in the morning and Pfizer, the manufacturers, held a

press conference in the afternoon. The message I tried to put across was that Viagra was effective but no more than other treatments for impotence. If men can't afford to pay for it privately they should consider other treatments that they can get on the NHS.

By Tuesday night, I was totally exhausted. I went round to my boyfriend's place for some sympathy. I was really fed up - the build up had gone on so long and I thought this [the day Viagra was licensed] would be the end of it. But it isn't because now we're waiting for the guidelines from the Government and the whole thing will begin again.

Wednesday
We had a bit of a lull today. I did a bit of shopping and then I had a meeting with a vacuum-pump manufacturer in the afternoon. They had a new constriction ring they wanted to show me. We have to know

about all the devices and treatments on the market so that we can give advice. It is a small world and everybody knows everybody.

Then, at 11.30pm, I got a call at home from a London radio station wanting to know what I thought of the plan by the Richard and Judy show on TV to experiment with Viagra on three couples who had never used it before.

I was appalled. We always try to help the press by finding couples prepared to talk about impotence, but we check first what they are planning. The Richard and Judy show didn't tell us what they wanted to do and if they had, we would not have put people forward.

Thursday
Richard and Judy sent three couples off with Viagra to a London hotel and brought them back later to see what had happened. One said it worked well, one said it was OK, and for one it didn't work at all - a success rate of one-and-a-half out of three.

I thought the programme was tacky. It trivialised the whole thing. It is a morning programme - what do they think they are playing at sending people off to a hotel to have sex while viewers are having their breakfast? We have worked so hard on this and it has knocked us back.

Friday
I had to deal with the fall-out from an article in the *Lancet* about a 65-year-old man who had a heart attack after taking Viagra. I didn't want to get involved - I don't know the details and it is really one for the manufacturers to handle. Tonight I'm going out with the girls for the first time in months. I'm really looking forward to it. Need you ask why?

Impotence Association helpline: 0181-767 7791

INTERVIEW BY JEREMY LAURANCE

In at the deep end

PARK LIFE



BRUCE MILLAR

ALL LAST week my son Darcy was worried about his first school swimming lesson, and I in turn was worried that his inability to swim at seven was turning into a full-blown phobia. The poor boy has inherited his mother's tendency to gnaw away at any given problem like a dog at a bone: well after bedtime he would drift off into a troubled sleep, fretting about the lesson, before waking up the next morning with the threatening mass of the swimming pool still floating in front of his eyes.

Every conversation would return to the theme, and the mention of any school would prompt speculation from him about whether it had compulsory swimming, to which I invariably answered "Yes. Well I'm not going there," he would declare. So if anyone knows of a school in south-east England where swimming does not feature on the curriculum, Darcy would like an application form by return of post.

My insistence that surely all seven-year-olds could swim only made things worse. "I'll be the only one in the baby pool," Darcy wailed. "And everyone will laugh at me." I finally managed to cheer him up by confiding that even I sometimes get frightened. For example, I said, I was frightened of taking part in the London Triathlon, which happens tomorrow. Delighted, he ran straight off to my wife, growling: "Mummm, guess what? Dad's really scared of doing the triathlon."

At the time, I thought this was a parental white lie, so it came as some surprise that this week it was my turn to start worrying as the countdown to the triathlon hit single figures.

After weeks of telling myself it was time to get down to some serious training, and then forgetting all about it, I found myself fixating on the terrifying challenge now only days away. There was something distantly familiar about the half delicious feeling of dread that began to gnaw at the pit of my stomach: it was a classic attack of the butterflies, that nervous condition that used to precede each new experience through childhood and adolescence, when life seemed to offer an endless succession of firsts: first day at school, first stay away from home, first time on a plane, first kiss. Sadly, perhaps, nothing much seems to register on the same scale any more: first day at a new job is hardly a daunting prospect by the time you are on the fourth page of your CV, and most of the things I haven't done yet I don't want to do - bungee jumping springs to mind. I suppose this is one of the reasons I put myself forward for the triathlon in the first place.

Just like Darcy's, my fears are a combination of the

straightforwardly physical with the potential embarrassment of making a complete prat of myself. Will I be able to get my compulsory wet-suit off after the one-mile swim in the London docks, I found myself thinking, or will I get it stuck around my ankles with everyone laughing at me? (Which reminds me: I must practise high-speed wet-suit removal.) Will I get a flat tyre on the 25-mile bike ride, and be unable to locate the puncture? (I draw the line at practising puncture repairs.) Will I get a bad attack of wobbly knees at the transition from the bike ride to the 10 kilometre run, and fall flat on my face?

As it turned out, of course, Darcy had nothing to worry about. The first swimming lesson was devoted to assessing the children's standards; they had to do a width, but were allowed to walk it in the shallow end if that was all they felt up to - which Darcy duly did, finishing up a third of his classmates. No wonder the Aussies are running away with the gold medals at the Commonwealth Games.

The closest I can come tomorrow to walking in the shallow end will be to plod round the triathlon course at a slow and steady lick, at least until a final sprint in the running leg if I have any energy left. I hope I'm not so slow that everyone laughs at me ... and I'm sure I'll find plenty of others in the same position. But just to guarantee the possibility of making a fool of myself, I'll set myself a target of three hours: if I take any longer, you can all have a good laugh at my expense.

Vera Collingwood

VERA COLLINGWOOD was an outstanding photographer who made a distinctive contribution to British life. She was also a remarkable case of someone embarking late on a successful new career.

She was born Vera Fratoni in 1920, to a modest family from Lugnano, near Orvieto in Umbria, although she was brought up in Abruzzo, where her father served as an officer in the Carabinieri. Her brother became one of the most senior generals in the Italian army and was also a talented musician.

Vera went to university in Rome to study philosophy, where she was a brilliant student. During the German occupation of Italy, she carried letters for the Resistance. She also dived for the university. As a protégée of the philosophers Benedetto Croce and Guido de Ruggiero, she was introduced to Bill Collingwood, the son of the philosopher and historian R.G. Collingwood, who had translated Croce into English. Bill was also the grandson of W.G. Collingwood, Ruskin's literary executor and first biographer. They married in Rome in 1947.

Bill had a highly successful career in British Airways and for almost 30 years Vera devoted herself to supporting her husband and to bringing up her son, while also pursuing her many interests, which included teaching evening classes at the City Lit. The tragedy of his early death in 1975 determined her to turn one of her interests into a career; to break out of the depression his death caused her. Although she had taken photographs to go with her lectures on Italian life, literature and history, she only took up photography seriously in her fifties.

Using simple, sometimes second-hand, equipment, she became an outstanding photographer, with a good technical knowledge of her subject. She offered her services, free of charge other than expenses, to the National Trust, which had the sense to recognise her talent. For more than 20 years she produced a flow of high-quality work, setting herself rigorous standards.



Despite living in England for over 50 years, Vera always spoke her own inimitable and ever-surprising 'improved' English. - 'What are the news?'; 'I go upstairs and comb my head'

Her meticulous and painstaking record, in black and white as well as in colour, of many National Trust and other houses, including Chastleton, Chiswick House, Cliveden, Fenton House, Hughenden, Osterley and Stowe, is a distinctive contribution to the historical building record. She had an ability to capture the essence of houses and gardens, using her natural eye for composition. Her sympathy for what she was photographing often enabled her to see a house or garden in a fresh perspective. Wherever she worked, her gift for friendship and generosity of spirit made her friends.

Her work proved highly popular and has been used not only in guidebooks, postcards, calendars but also

to illustrate numerous books. An early one was *London Cemeteries* by Hugh Miller (1981). Later examples were *Mrs Coade's Stone* by Alison Kelly (1990), and *Country House Brewing in England* by Pamela Sambrook (1996), for which she photographed what remains of the private breweries that used to be a feature of the majority of country houses. Her passionate interest in gardens was reflected in the photographs she took for an exhibition on Fenton House garden in Hampstead, north London, where her pictures were paired with a set taken in the late 19th century.

Vera came to England, speaking little English, in 1947. She first lived in St Peter's Square, Hammersmith,

which at that time housed a cosmopolitan array of artists and writers, including Julian Trevelyan and his wife Mary Fedden, A.P. Herbert, and Vera's near neighbour Alec Guinness, with whom she was soon very much at home. The son of other neighbours was William Bennett, the celebrated flautist, who became a close friend. In 1967 she moved to Strand on the Green, overlooking the Thames near Kew Bridge, to a small 17th-century house that was the perfect setting for entertainment.

Hospitality to people of all ages was natural to Bill and Vera Collingwood. Vera was a wonderful cook who above all relished good ingredients cooked in the simplest way. She collaborated with Anna del Conte on her cookery books, which did much to popularise Italian cooking in Britain. After Bill's death Vera combined her new career with unfailing, even increased, hospitality to young and old alike. The power and warmth of her character allowed her to form friendships with a great variety of people, taking an interest in them and finding common ground. Her friendships were by no means restricted to people of her own age and class. She had an exceptional ability to encourage the young and diffident, treating them exactly as she would have treated the eminent.

Vera Collingwood had high standards in all she did. Her taste was impeccable. She was highly civilised herself and admired civilised people, having a particularly high regard for those she saw (perhaps through rose-coloured glasses) as exemplifying a characteristic English mixture of intelligence and intellectual honesty. She loved literature, both English and Italian, and history, particularly Gibbon, whom she read late into the night and whose antierudite outlook she shared to the full. She was a good artist, whose paintings (mostly landscapes) were as idiosyncratic as her English. She had no television but was a passionate player; with an unerring taste for the unusual and the dramatic. She also loved a debate. Vera was



The Gothic Umbrello at Stowe, photographed by Collingwood. National Trust Photographic Library

a true liberal by background and by temperament, something reinforced by her experiences under Fascism in Italy. She loved to think for herself and to express herself and for others to do the same. She liked to see two or more sides to a question. If people agreed with her she was quite capable of disagreeing with herself and her own previous opinion, both for the fun of it and to see where the argument would lead. This did not mean that her values and belief in high standards changed but that she was an original: she preferred to be with the minority. In politics, she was a Labour supporter (to the surprise of some of her neighbours). She was also, from the earliest beginnings of moves towards a

united Europe after the war, a committed pro-European.

Despite living in England for over 50 years, Vera always spoke her own inimitable and ever-surprising dialect of "improved" English, with its own unique vigour. Her friends treasured her latest coinages, which combined a mangle of grammar or idiom ("What are the news?" or "I go upstairs and comb my head") and a gift for mispronunciation ("sphinxers" for "spinsters" and "dragons" for "dragons"). While she became in some ways very English, she never stopped being Italian and above all never stopped being herself.

She was a true Italian mother in her devotion to her only son, Robert. She was also immensely proud of her

grandchildren, Elizabeth and Patrick, to whom she was an original and practical and hard-working grandmother, whether encouraging their drawing and writing or flying out to Prague (where Robert Collingwood has been working as a leading architect in the restoration of the city) with supplies of the baked beans and Jaffa cakes they had requested. Her reaction to her final illness was typically magnificent: totally unsentimental and unselfish.

MARTIN SHEPPARD

Vera Ester Maria Fratoni, photographer; born Lugnano, Italy 7 November 1920; married 1947 Bill Collingwood (died 1975; one son); died London 1 September 1998.

Professor Alexei Anselm

ALEXEI ANSELM was one of the leading theoretical physicists in the Soviet Union. He was Director-General of the Petersburg Nuclear Physics Institute from 1992 until 1994 and Head of its Theory Division for 14 years. He had many British friends and colleagues.

Born in Leningrad in 1934, he was the only child of Andrei Anselm, Professor of Physics at Leningrad State University, and Irina Mochan, also a physicist. During the siege of Leningrad, the university was evacuated to Elabuga, 200 miles from Kazan along the Volga in the Tatar Republic, and Anselm was taken there with his mother by boat from Lake Ladoga. He recalled spending several weeks on the open deck of the boat: his mother refused to allow him to go to the disease-ridden decks below. Two boats travelled together but one was sunk. He survived both cholera and enemy action.

After the Second World War he returned to Leningrad, graduated in physics in 1956 and obtained his Candidate degree (the equivalent of a PhD) in theoretical physics in 1961. He took up a staff position at the prestigious Ioffe Physico-Technical Institute in 1963 and then transferred to the Leningrad Nuclear Physics Institute (as it was then - Leningrad

reverted to its former name St Petersburg in 1991), where he remained for the rest of his life. There, he and his colleagues built up a world-famous group in the quantum theory of elementary particles, a theory which deals with the fundamental properties of matter at the smallest (sub-nuclear) length scales. Anselm became Professor of Theoretical Physics at Leningrad State University in 1974.

Even before Anselm obtained his PhD it was obvious that he had exceptional talent. The leading figure in Soviet theoretical physics in the 1960s was Lev Landau, head of theoretical physics at Kapitza's Institute of Physical Problems in Moscow. Landau considered that the constraints of quantum theory meant that the electric charge of the electron must vanish if probed at small enough distances since it was a particle with zero radius. Anselm in 1969 showed that this was not necessarily the case: quantum theories could exist for such point particles even when the coupling was not zero. Unfortunately this paper is not well known outside Russia and it took another 15 years before similar results were rediscovered in the West.

During the 1960s and early 1970s Anselm, together with his friend and

He was called in by the KGB and asked what he would say in Britain about the invasion. He replied, 'What would you recommend me to say?'



collaborator Vladimir Gribov, established the Leningrad Nuclear Physics Institute as a major international centre for work on the high energy scattering of particles, using the complex angular momentum approach of the Italian Tullio Regge. Since it was impossible for most of that time for either Anselm or Gribov to leave the Soviet Union (Gribov was a Jew and Anselm was a half-Jew) many Western physicists visited Leningrad.

In 1980 Gribov left Leningrad for Moscow and soon after, Anselm replaced him as head of the Theory Division of the institute. He then worked on many topics within the "standard model of elementary particles" which generalises the electro-magnetic force to include both weak interactions (i.e. beta-decays) and the theory of quarks and gluons.

He worked especially on the properties of the Higgs particles predicted by Peter Higgs of Edinburgh,

and on the violation of the symmetry between particles and antiparticles and left- and right-handedness, known as CP violation. Anselm also established the Winter School for theoretical physicists organised by his institute, an annual event which rapidly became one of the major high energy physics meetings in Russia.

In 1968 Anselm visited Britain for the first time, at the invitation of Elliott Leader of Birkbeck College, London. He was allowed to go, somewhat surprisingly, on account of the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia, which had caused many invitations to official Soviet visitors to be cancelled. When it was clear that Leader had not cancelled Anselm's invitation, he was given his passport for foreign travel. He was then called in by the KGB and asked what he would say if he was questioned in Britain about the invasion. Anselm replied cautiously, "And what would you recommend me to say?" It turned out that the Party line for intellectuals was to have reservations about the invasion.

Anselm's visit to Britain was a great success. He and his wife Mila enjoyed London; the theatre, the pubs, the countryside; the books. Unfortunately he was not allowed to leave the Soviet Union again until perestroika, 20 years later, when in 1989 Leader invited both Anselm and Gribov to Birkbeck. I met Anselm that summer when he came with Gribov to Sussex University for Andrei Sakharov's honorary degree ceremony.

From then on Anselm travelled widely. He often visited the United States, where his daughter and granddaughter had settled, and also visited colleagues and lectured in France and Italy. He developed an interest in cosmology and the periodicity in the distribution of the galaxies and developed a theory of a very light particle which could in principle explain it. He visited Birkbeck and Sussex on several occasions, the last being in 1997 when he spent some months courtesy of the Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council at both institutions. When in Britain, he would often talk about physics on the Russian Service of the BBC, where his clear exposition of fundamental concepts was much appreciated. But in 1995 he was diagnosed as having liver cancer and, although he thought he had overcome the disease and continued to travel and lecture, it finally overcame him last month.

He was a man of wide interests.

At the Winter School for theoretical physicists which he established, 200 or so Soviet physicists gathered near Leningrad for two weeks to talk about physics. But Anselm invited non-physicists to contribute too. Writers, artists, philosophers, historians came also to discuss their work, even (and especially) when it did not meet with official approval. The abstract artist E. Mikhov, the playwright A. Volodin, the popular author F. Iskander, the poets B. Okudzhava, B. Akhmadulina and A. Kushner, and the actor S. Yurskii were among those who participated. When Anselm became Director-General of the Institute in 1992 he was able to continue this tradition by sponsoring local artists.

He married Ludmila Busagina in 1956. Their daughter Ira was born in 1960 and now works in Boston Children's Hospital as a child neurologist.

NORMAN DOMBEY

Alexei Andreevich Anselm, theoretical physicist; born Leningrad, Soviet Union 1 July 1934; Director-General, Petersburg Nuclear Physics Institute 1992-94; married 1956 Ludmila Busagina (one daughter); died Boston, Massachusetts 23 August 1998.

Poss Grey

"POSS". WHY was she called "Poss" Grey? Maybe she gave herself the nickname? She always said a cosmetic nose-job went wonky and made her look like a possum. She was one of the great English characters.

I first met Nevart Smith (as she was then) when she was running the Britannia Inn in Elterwater in the Lake District. It was the weekend of the Cuban missile crisis, October 1962. I had spent a long day distracting myself from dangerous politics by trying to locate the graves of Kurt Schwitters and Beatrix Potter. My information about Schwitters was correct (Ambleside churchyard) but I could not find it. My information about Potter (Trautbeck churchyard) was wrong. I later found out that her ashes were scattered on the fells overlooking Hill Top Farm at Near Sawrey.

I was in the midst of five weeks of walking, staying in youth hostels, and seeking out conversation in friendly pubs. My luck was such that I kept encountering dour and taciturn Westmorland hill farmers whose only reading seemed to have been Oswald Spengler's *The Decline of the West*.

So it was a pleasure to walk into the Britannia one evening and be served a pint with a smile by a lady whose size and demeanour put me in mind of Mrs Tiggywinkle. Then, only a minute or two after I took a seat with my drink, the door opened and in came a beaming gentleman who said loudly, "I say, Poss, I don't believe you know my friend, Michael, here. He has the smallest bottom in the whole Lake District."

One heard all sorts of funny things in Poss's many pubs. She had a genius for revivifying moribund country inns and filling them with bon vivants and jolly locals. You could join in the craic between Dr Robert Holmes, the Professor of Anatomy at Leeds University and Allen Beresford of Oughtershaw, as canny a Yorkshire shepherd as there ever was. Poss knew exactly how to put very different people together and make them comfortable - not an easy thing to do in Britain.

When not behind the bar or in the kitchen, Poss was in the garden. I don't think she ever bought a plant in her life. Friends surrendered bits of their gardens with pleasure. On car journeys she always carried a spade, a bucket and a bag. Liber-

ations were certain to happen, and who could yell at Mrs Tiggywinkle?

After her long stint at the Brit, some readers may have encountered her at the George (Hubberholme, Upper Wharfedale); the King George IV, also known as the Tallygarth (Eskdale Green in the Lakes); or the Gate Inn (Yanwath, near Penrith). Or in pubs she often patronised: the Blue Lion (East Wotton, Wensleydale), the White Swan (Middleham), the Buck (Buckden, Upper Wharfedale), the Swan (Middleton, Lonsdale), the Mortal Man (Trautbeck, Lakes).

Having known Poss Grey for 35 years I now realise I know almost nothing about her life before she pulled me a pint in Elterwater. But luck is at hand. An ongoing project of mine is a book called *The Corn Close Book*. Corn Close is our stone cottage in Dentdale, Cumbria. The book is about places we visit on foot and by car from there. And about the visitors. The interesting ones I have photographed by our neighbour, the notable boggart and polymath Mike Harding. Poss is one of the subjects and I asked each one to write out a little piece of autobiography. I have found her notes and here they are.

"I was born long ago (1913) in Cheshire. An odd background. One Armenian grandfather a Professor at Heidelberg; another stoned to death in Turkey. Various Gulbenkian cousins - no oil, they were poets! For his second child my father longed for a handsome, brown-eyed son, but there I lay in my pram, blonde, blue eyes fixed on buds and flowers. He said, 'Lili, I think this one's going to be an idiot!'"

"I hated every moment at an excellent school in Wales. He said, 'After nine years and endless expense, you have learnt how to balance jelly on a fork. No Swiss finishing school for you! So, three years at a co-ed agricultural school in the SW - hard work, exams and daily riding. I loved it."

"Off to prison went my first admirer, court-martialled for buzzing my house, followed by a second ditto five years later. But, a sudden meeting with an Australian Medical Officer with the RAF (to me a cross between Laurence Olivier and a god), and we were married in four weeks, thus starting my 37 removals and rehousings - a way of life. The [Second World War] War, excitement and sadness; I didn't see him for four

years. My small bit for the war effort was to establish Dove Cottage in Elterwater, in Lower Langdale in the Lake District. There we gave convalescent care to air crews injured in the Battle of Britain. These men came from all over the Commonwealth.

"Alone again, during the Suez crisis, I thought, 'Why don't I take a pub?' Of course, my father said, 'What do you know about any business, especially a pub? You don't even drink. You know what the locals will say.' The locals said: 'She's either a witch or a bitch. And she uses garlic in her cooking!'"

"But, the Britannia (halfway up Langdale where my people lived) took off. It became a Mecca for climbers, fyers, writers, racers (car and horse). One evening, there was a highlight. Into what the locals call 'posh end' came a very big American, seeking food and drink. That was Jonathan Williams, who became an immediate and lifetime friend.

"Eventually, I bought the George Inn, at Hubberholme in Upper Wharfedale, with its fair share of funny (as ha) and funny (peculiar) hill farmers, plus plenty of ramblers.



My father said, "What do you know about any business, especially a pub? You don't even drink!" Mike Harding

After two years, in walked Chris Grey - ex-RAF and GM of BP Oil - and that was that. He whisked me off to Arabia. We lived in Bahrain and I went with him on his continual visits to the Emirates - fascinating countries. I loved the people, who were so handsome and courteous. I bought a pretty Tudor house in Devon for C's early retirement, but he died, very suddenly, in the desert. He was 48.

"Back in the Lakes they said, 'Buy a pub. You need work.' So to Eskdale

and another lovely old building to restore, but alone. Then, moving again, to Middleham amidst the race horses and the castles. And now, finally, again the Lakes. My three first loves have always been horses, men and gardening. As the saying is: Life Goes On. But, in second gear."

JONATHAN WILLIAMS

Nevart Smith, publican; born 1913; married secondly Chris Grey (deceased); died Trautbeck Bridge, Cumbria 3 September 1998.

David Dunn

DAVID DUNN had a boundless energy and enthusiasm which made an impression in many fields, not least of all surgery, in which he was an exceptionally skilled practitioner and an inspirational teacher. He was dedicated to his patients and sought ways of minimising the trauma of operations. It was this thinking that led him to invent a vascular occluder (a far more gentle alternative to the metal clamps traditionally used in surgery) and to champion the technique of endoscopic, or "keyhole" surgery.

His pioneering applications in the early Nineties of keyhole surgery and his defence of this controversial new technique occupied much of his later professional life. He was delighted when it became recognised as a distinct surgical specialty and he was made President of the Association of Endoscopic Surgeons in 1997.

Born in 1939, Dunn began his medical studies at St John's College, Cambridge, and continued them at St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, qualifying in 1963. He went on to various house jobs and then returned to Cambridge as an Anatomy Demonstrator.

After a trip as Medical Officer to the British East Greenland Expedition in 1966, he knuckled down to his surgical training. Initially he worked under the stern gaze of Lord Brock at the Brompton Hospital, London, and then the guidance of Sir Reginald Murray in St Albans, who appreciated the potential of this bright young surgeon.

Dunn returned to Cambridge in 1970 as Assistant Director of Research with Professor Sir Roy Calne, investigating the mechanism of rejection of organ grafts at a time when organ transplantation was in its infancy. He contributed significantly to the discovery of drugs that would control rejection (amongst them, Cyclosporin A) and was essential in establishing transplantation as a viable treatment for liver, kidney and other organ failures.

Dunn then diversified into general surgery, becoming a consultant general surgeon at Addenbrooke's Hospital in 1974, aged 35. His early work concentrated mainly in the areas of vascular, neonatal and upper gastrointestinal surgery, where he sought out new techniques and honed established ones. In order to keep abreast of the latest developments in surgery, he travelled extensively (with the Association of Surgeons and the Myonihon Chirurgical Club), visiting key research centres and importing their findings so as to keep his Cambridge practice at the forefront of medical expertise.

It was on one such trip that he encountered endoscopic techniques being applied to general surgery and was excited by the implications this could have for many routine surgical procedures. With characteristic determination and zeal he developed endoscopic surgery in Cambridge and was the first in East Anglia to perform a laparoscopic cholecystectomy (removal of the gall bladder using keyhole techniques). The benefits of these innovations could be seen, as patients were able to return home earlier, often on the same day as the operation.

In order to monitor the success rates of these operations he used the computerised surgical audit system ("Dunnfile") he had been developing at

Seeking ways to minimise the trauma of operations, he championed the technique of keyhole surgery

Addenbrooke's since 1980. This allowed complications to be analysed and procedures to be improved upon. Having put himself through rigorous training both on models and under the tutelage of gynaecologists familiar with keyhole techniques, Dunn was only too aware of the importance of adequate training in these procedures. He was invited to run the Comparative Audit Service for the Royal College of Surgeons, which enabled them to identify potential problems and implement the creation of recognised training programmes to teach the new techniques rather than the more traditional haphazard apprenticeship methods.

Dunn instilled his enthusiasm into many of his medical students over the years. He was Director of Medical Studies at St John's College from 1984 until 1987 and lectured at Cambridge University Clinical School from 1974, becoming Director of Surgical Studies in 1987, a post in which he continued until last year.

Apart from scientific papers he wrote several books, including the popular textbook for medical students *Surgical Diagnosis and Management* (1985).



His love of technological innovations showed through in this, as in all other areas of his life - his possession of the latest gadgetry for presentations made him a popular lecturer both locally and internationally.

His affinity for teaching extended into the rowing world, of which he had been an active member since his university days. Over the years he coached numerous St John's College (LMBC) and Cambridge (CUBC) crews - notably the winning 1986 Cambridge crew. Latterly he had been made Senior Treasurer of the CUBC. He had become a familiar face at Henley Royal Regatta, attending in recent years as a spectator to his two sons' rowing achievements. He had a particular gift for inspiring the young with his single-minded will to win.

Dunn retired from surgery in 1997 due to increasing illness. He continued with his other interests including lecturing, working with the CUBC and painting. He was a talented water-colour artist, selling his paintings in aid of charity. He was also a keen member of the Cambridge flying group, where he learnt to fly and gained a pilot's licence for Tiger Moths.

Throughout his life, though, his prime source of pride and enjoyment was his family. He came from a close family and had endured the death of his two younger brothers, most recently that of Richard, the independent television executive, who predeceased him by two weeks.

JOANNA DUNN

David Christy Dunn, surgeon: born Colchester, Essex 12 February 1939; Consultant General Surgeon, Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge 1974-97; Lecturer in Surgery, Cambridge University Clinical School 1974-97; Director of Surgical Studies 1987-97; Director of Medical Studies, St John's College, Cambridge 1984-87; Director, Confidential Comparative Audit Service, Royal College of Surgeons 1991-95; Tutor in Laparoscopic Surgery 1991-97; Tutor in Laparoscopic Surgery, Paris Centre for Advanced Laparoscopic Surgery 1992-97; National Secretary, Association of Endoscopic Surgeons 1994-97; President 1997-1998; married 1969 Anne Collet (two sons, three daughters); died Cambridge 19 August 1998.

HISTORICAL NOTES

GABRIELE ROSENTHAL

Torment of the sins of the grandfathers

ULI SONNTAG (not his real name) is one of the subjects we interviewed in the course of our research on three-generation families of Nazi perpetrators. He was born in Germany in 1971. His grandparents were enthusiastic National Socialists; his grandfather was probably involved in Nazi crimes. Uli has severe guilt feelings, is tormented by the question of his own potential for committing similar crimes, suffers from nightmares and a fear of annihilation.

Is this an isolated case? More than 50 years after the collapse of the Third Reich, we might suppose that the long-term psychological effects of that era were ever nearer to disappearing. However, our empirical study of Nazi perpetrators' families in three generations shows that this is not the case. The consequences of past events can be seen more and more clearly, and grandchildren suffer more openly under their grandparents' Nazi past than their parents did. In general, we were able to observe that, instead of challenging the grandparents' past, the perpetrators' children and grandchildren as well are often afflicted with guilt.

In the case of the Sonntag family, we also observe that perpetrators succeeded in passing guilt to children and grandchildren and blaming them when they asked unpleasant questions. For example, some years ago Uli decided to visit his grandparents to talk with them about their past. In conversation he tries hard to motivate his grandfather to admit his crimes. The grandfather grows furious, accuses his grandson of using Nazi methods and staging a Gestapo-style interrogation. That night Uli stays at his grandparents' house but is haunted by the fantasy that his grandfather might shoot him because he is on to his past and beginning to loosen the bonds of filial loyalty. Terrified, he barricades the door.

Many children and grandchildren suffer from fears of being murdered, which are related to unconscious fantasies about their own relatives' deeds. We also observe a fear of being considered "unworthy of life". Thus as a child the daughter of one Nazi doctor, a euthanasia practitioner, concealed her myopia from her father. Children and grandchildren also suffer from quite detailed fantasies concerning



Fear of fire: Auschwitz

the undisclosed family history or family secrets. Our analyses show a striking correspondence between these fantasies and the specific experiences of the grandparents' generation. In the Sonntag family, both the son Eberhard and the grandson Uli are preoccupied with fantasies about fire and burning people. Eberhard does not want to think about his father's past; however, he continues to ask "burning" questions with regard to his own life story; he worries whether he might be capable of murdering people.

In his fantasies he places himself in the position of a commanding officer and ponders whether he would be able to drive women and children into a church and set it on fire. His son Uli in turn has a pronounced fear of fire. In a recurrent dream he is trapped in his bedroom in his childhood home; the room is on fire and he cannot get out. He also visualises being cremated in a concentration camp; he sees himself on the pile of corpses.

To what extent are these fantasies on the theme of burning people connected with the family's hidden history? The grandfather, who as an architect, our archive research shows, may well have been involved in building crematoria in concentration camps, wonders how there could still have been so many corpses left after 1945, arguing that they had tried to burn them all.

Gabriele Rosenthal is the editor of *The Holocaust in Three Generations: families of victims and perpetrators of the Nazi regime* (Cassell, £50)

GAZETTE

BIRTHDAYS

TODAY: Miss Kate Adie, television journalist, 53; Mr John Burnett MP, 53; Mrs Judith Church MP, 45; Sir Timothy Colman, Lord-Lieutenant of Norfolk, 69; Capt Ronald Cunningham-Jardine, Lord-Lieutenant, Dumfries and Galloway, 67; Mr Michael Dibben, Commissioner to Fiji, 55; Mr Justin Dukes, chairman, ECG Management, 57; Mr Michael Elphick, actor, 52; Capt Jim Fox, pentathlon winner, 57; Miss Sidonie Goossens, harpist, 96; Mr Richard Gray, Director, Manchester City Art Galleries, 47; Mr David Harris, chairman and chief executive, Nestlé UK, 54; Miss Rosemary Harris, actress, 68; Mr Simon Hemans, High Commissioner to Kenya, 58; Lady Mary Holborow, Lord-Lieutenant for Cornwall, 62; Mr Jeremy Irons, actor, 50; Mr Brian Jenkins MP, 56; Mr David McCallum, actor, 65; Sir Robert McCrindle, former MP, 69; Mr Ian McGowan, Librarian, National Library of Scotland, 53; The Very Rev Dr J. Frazier McLuskey, former Moderator of the Church of Scotland, 84; Mr Charles Martin, Headmaster, Bristol Grammar School, 59; Mr Austin Mitchell MP, 64; Sir Stephen Mitchell, High Court judge, 57; Mrs Penelope Mortimer, novelist, 80; Mr Pete Murray, broadcaster, 70; Sir Robert Nelson, High Court judge, 66; Mr Derek Nimmo, actor, 66; Miss Zandra Rhodes, fashion designer, 58; Dr George Richardson, former Warden, Keele College, Oxford, 74; The Duke of Richmond and

Gordon, Chancellor, Sussex University, 69; Mr Kurt Sanderling, conductor, 83; Professor Sir Geoffrey Slaney, former President, Royal College of Surgeons, 76; Twigg Miss Lesley Hornby, model, actress and singer, 49; Professor Christopher White, former Director, Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, 68; Sir Leonard Williams, former Director-General, Energy, European Communities, 79; Mr Paul Williams, composer and lyricist, 58; Dr Arthur Willis, composer and organist, 72; Judge Harold Wilson, circuit judge, 67.

TOMORROW: Mr David Burns, former ambassador to Finland, 61; Sir Jeremy Child Bt, actor, 54; Mr John Dankworth, bandleader and jazzman, 71; Mr Geoffrey Dear, former HM Inspector of Constabulary, 61; The Very Rev George Earle SJ, 73; Sir Douglas Falconer, former High Court judge, 94; Mrs Caroline Flint MP, 37; Mr Mike Hall MP, 46; Mr John Harle, saxophonist, 42; The Right Rev Colin James, former Bishop of Winchester, 72; General Sir Gerry Johnson, Chairman, International Defence Advisory Board to the Baltic States, 51; Dr Michael Kilborn, cricketer, 36; Miss Sophia Loren, actress, 64; Miss Anne McIntosh MP, MBE, 44; Professor Robert McMan, anatomist, 75; Miss Jane Manning, soprano, 60; Professor David Marsland, Principal, Mansfield College, Oxford, 64; Miss Christine Oddy, MBE, 43; The Right Rev Kenneth Riches, former Bishop of Lincoln, 90; Mr José Rivero,

golfer, 43; Mr Eric Sayers, former chairman, Dupont, 83; Mr Alan Simpson MP, 50; Sir John Whitehead, former ambassador to Japan, 66.

ANNIVERSARIES

TODAY: Births: Antoninus Pius, Roman emperor, 86; George Cadbury, chocolate manufacturer and social reformer, 1839; William Hesth Lever, first Viscount Leverhulme, soap manufacturer and philanthropist, 1851; Sir William Gerald Golding, novelist, 1911; Deane Meyer Amschel Rothschild, banker, 1812; James Abram Garfield, 20th US President, after being shot 1881; Thomas John Barnardo, physician and philanthropist, 1905; Stella Maria Miles Franklin (Grant of Bin Bin), novelist, 1894; Chester Floyd Carlson, inventor of xerographic copying system, 1906; Roy Kinnear, actor and comedian, 1938. On this day: led by Edward, the Black Prince, the English defeated the French at the Battle of Poitiers, 1356; Auckland, New Zealand, was founded, 1840; Melville Reuben Bissell, inventor, patented the first carpet-sweeper, 1876; William Joyce, known as "Lord Haw-Haw", was sentenced to be hanged, after a trial at the Old Bailey 1945.

Today is the Feast Day of St Emili de Rodat, St Goerics or Abbo, St Januarius of Benevento, St Mary of Cerevellon, St Peleus and his Companions, St Sequanus or Seine, St Susanna of Eleutheropolis and St Theodore of Canterbury.

TOMORROW: Births: Alexander the Great, 356 BC; Sir Titus Salt MP, manufacturer and philanthropist, 1803; Sir James Dewar, chemist and physicist, inventor of the vacuum flask, 1842; Sir George Robey (George Edward Wade), comedian, 1869; Kenneth More, actor, 1914. Deaths: Robert Emmet, Irish nationalist, executed 1803; Jakob Ludwig Karl Grimm, philologist and folklorist, 1836; Sir Titus Salt MP, manufacturer and philanthropist, 1876; Fiorella Henry La Guardia, mayor of New York, 1947; Jean Julius Christian Sibelius, composer, 1865; George Sefaris (Glorios Stylianou Sefarides), poet and diplomat, 1971; Jule Styne (Julius Kerwin Stein), songwriter and composer, 1994. On this day: Aethus, Roman general, defeated the Huns under Attila at Châlons-sur-Marne, 451; Salisbury Cathedral was consecrated, 1258; Ferdinand Magellan and a fleet of five ships set off from Seville on a circumnavigation of the world, 1519; the Amateur Dramatic Company, consisting of Dickens, Forster, Jerrold, Leech and Lemon, appeared in Ben Jonson's *Every Man in his Humour* at Miss Kelly's Theatre, Dean Street, London, 1845; the liner *Mauretania* was launched, 1906; the Methodist Church of Great Britain and Ireland was established, 1832; the liner *Queen Elizabeth II* was launched at Clydebank, 1966.

Tomorrow is the Feast Day of St Candida of Carthage, Saints Fausta and Evlasius, Saints Theodore, Philippa and their Companions, St

Vincent Madelgaras and the Martyrs of Korea.

LECTURES

TODAY: National Gallery: Richard Stemp, "Sour Grapes (iii): Wtewael, The Judgement of Paris", 12pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Fiona Leslie, "Aspects of Exterior: representing architecture", 2pm. Tate Gallery: Laurence Bradbury, "Paintings With Palpable Designs Upon Us", 1pm. British Museum: Nicole Douek, "Women in Ancient Egypt: queens and priestesses", 11.30am; Nicole Douek, "Women in Ancient Egyptian Society", 1.30pm.

TOMORROW: Victoria and Albert Museum: Cathryn Spence, "Portrait of Mrs Luke Tondies by William Blake Richmond, and the London Collection", 2pm. Tate Gallery: Laurence Bradbury, "Inner Meaning in Well-known Works", 2.30pm. National Portrait Gallery: Tuba Mann and Colin Pinney, "Elizabeth Barrett and Robert Browning", 3pm.

LUNCHEONS

Newspaper Society: Mr Charles Brims, President of the Newspaper Society and chief executive of Portsmouth and Sunderland Newspapers, hosted a lunch yesterday at Bloomsbury House, London WC1, in honour of Sir Leon Brittan, Vice-President of the European Commission.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In memoriam) are charged at £8.50 a line (VAT extra).

The wild surmise of Keats and capitalism

LAST WEEK the new Church and Society Commission of the European Council of Churches was launched in Brussels. It was addressed by Jacques Santer, the President of the European Commission, who talked about the contribution of the Churches in the enlargement of Europe. The event was more exciting than it sounds, for nobody seems able to capture the drama of European enlargement, and the potentially explosive element in the process - religion.

The prospect of Europe's expansion calls for some large-scale vision than European bureaucracy offers. In Brussels, I recalled John Keats's description of the moment that Hernando Cortez first glimpsed the Pacific:

when, with eagle eyes,
He stared at the Pacific - and
all his men
Looked at each other with a wild
surmise -
Silent, upon a peak in Darien.

Keats imagines that unexpected moment when the world became suddenly much larger - when Europe discovered its Pacific coast. As old empires fell and new ones became known, these Europeans knew their discoveries were providential. And that power of Providence was clearly Christian - given by the God of Isaac and Jacob, of the Creed and the Mass, of Castile and Aragon. His truths were regarded as irrefutable. His enthusiasm for the Spanish cause was indicated by their spectacular triumphs, and set at naught the horrendous human cost of their conquest.

Now a new extraordinary moment has arisen in Europe. With the collapse of the Soviet empire, Europe has a Pacific coast once more. But the feelings aroused by that vision are more complex than those which occurred to Cortez.

Our culture is unused to the idea of Providence, and responds more cautiously to the new European panorama. The European Union's response has been to offer the prospect of membership to a hundred million of Europe's poorest people, in 10 countries from Estonia to Bulgaria. Half the coun-

tries have begun the accession process, much the biggest being Poland. Beyond lie Ukraine, Belarus - and Russia. The larger project is for these states to be neighbours rather than members. The prospect of shaping a common civilisation, from Galway to Vladivostok, is breathtaking; the chances of success mixed; the consequences of failure alarming.

The banner of European enlargement is not marked "For Christ and Spain", but it does carry convictions of a sort. These are embodied in the programme agreed at the European Council in 1993. New member states must enjoy de-

FAITH & REASON

JOHN KENNEDY

Politicians and economists have forgotten that religion could prove the explosive element as Europe expands

democratic institutions, which offer protection to minorities. They must also have created a functioning market economy, with the ability to compete in the single market. So, "Democracy and Capitalism" are the new credal statements. These are less troubling than the godly greed of the Conquistadors, but their universal virtue and utility are not self-evident.

First, the Europeans have found it notoriously difficult to harness capitalism and democracy. Mark Mazower's widely praised recent book *The Dark Continent* is about Europe, not Africa. It insists that in the first half of this century Europeans have too often been afraid of capitalism, contemptuous of democracy and embarrassingly content with dictatorship. A humane form of social democracy has held sway since the

Second World War, but it is not clear how it will survive the current transformations in British, German and French politics. Europe's dispossessed economic minorities are swelling to unprecedented levels. Old solidarities are dissolving.

Second, Democratic Capitalism is not obviously virtuous to serious religionists, in and around Europe. Democratic Capitalism is about the satisfaction of individuals' desires, provided they can plausibly claim not harm others. To the seriously religious - for whom life centres, in whatever tradition, on obedience to the will of God - "perfectly selfish and perfectly harmless" sounds like the epitaph for a civilisation based on religious values.

Most striking of all is the resurgence of the Orthodox Church in Russia, as firm in its convictions as ever. Alexei Zaitsev, the correspondent for the *Moscow Times*, who came to Brussels last week to receive the Templeton Prize for Religious Journalism, got that prize partly for his scrutiny of the new Russian law on religion, which severely limits non-Orthodox religious activity. The Russian Church sees itself as acting in obedience to its tradition, in the face of religious aggression which is only possible because Russia is so weak. The Democratic Capitalist project will have to carry more substantial moral credentials before the Russian Church can be wholly blamed for defending its own divine calling.

Some traditions are more accommodating to European liberalism than others. The Catholic Tradition is modelled in a sense on the Holy Roman Empire. In every facet of Orthodox life is mirrored the whole of Byzantium - while Methodists like me tend to betray their roots in the Co-operative Wholesale Society. On the whole I am optimistic about our new European venture. But European Capitalist Democracy has not worked for long, and currently owes more to convenience than to conviction. Its religious critics may go the way of the Aztec and the Inca, but their sharp questions will remain.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh tomorrow pay a State Visit to Malaysia; and

attend the final two days of the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur. The Prince of Wales tomorrow attends the Battle of Britain Service in Westminster Abbey, London SW1.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

TODAY: The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am. TOMORROW: The Household Cavalry Mounted

Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment mounts the Queen's Guard at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Scots Guards.

Come on, feel the farce



Cleo, Camping, Emmanuelle and Dick, with Samantha Spiro and Geoffrey Hutchings, above, is set during the making of four 'Carry On' films. Geraint Lewis

Ooh, I say, you'll never guess what. That Terry Johnson says he's come over all lightweight with his latest play. But don't you believe it. By John Crace

Terry Johnson is a tricky customer. When I last met him six months ago at the National Theatre, where he was rehearsing the Restoration comedy, *The London Cuckolds*, I was expecting a hard time. He had a reputation for being media unfriendly and hostile. Naturally, he was anything but. "I used to draw a line between drama and showbiz," he explained, "and come down firmly on the side of drama. Now I've started enjoying myself, I reckon there's not much to choose between the two. I'll do anything now, provided I never find myself in the same club as Baz Bamigboye [the showbiz editor of the *Daily Mail*]."

But now that his new play, *Cleo, Camping, Emmanuelle and Dick*, is about to open at the National, Johnson has gone all Garbo. He's not talking to anyone, I'm told, because he wants to let the play speak for itself. Which seems a bit unnecessary. He's never had reason to complain about his work being misinterpreted in the past, and having *Cleo* premiered at the National must feel like a personal vindication for the man whose 1993 play, *Hysteria*, the self-same company refused to commission.

Johnson has dismissed his work with a casual, "It's an irrevocable slide into light entertainment", but no one else does. His ability to blend true farce with contemporary drama has made him one of this country's leading comic playwrights. He uses the Ray Cooney trouser-dropping, bed-hopping routines as the structure for his writing, but underscores the text with psychological investigations into behaviour where anyone with the slightest pretensions is done for.

The proximity of the comic to the satiric makes the desperation of the lives laid bare more striking.

Cleo is Johnson's first play since his 1994 success, *Dead Funny*, and its genesis has been every bit as torturous as the time-scale might suggest: "In the past it was enough for my plays to be vaguely intelligent, but now I couldn't bear it if people didn't have a great time, too." He seems to have no grasp that his major talent has always been to entertain. The clutch of awards he's been showered with hasn't impinged much either; he probably reckons he just got lucky or that every other play just happened to be even worse than his.

It's almost as if Johnson finds the whole process of writing too unrewarding, and he frequently moans about winding up as sad and depressed as Arnold Wesker and Peter Nichols. He would much rather have

been a stand-up comedian, but he lacks the ability to improvise. His scripts are often peppered with blanks and the word "Joie" while he struggles to come up with the killer gag. "When you fail to rise to the demands of playwrighting, the best you can do is go down the shops or nip back to bed. It's a slow grind down to stasis and a slow crawl out of it. Being over 40 is a dangerous area for a playwright. You try to be more truthful, but what is there to be more truthful about? Falling in love with a younger woman... that's about it."

Which just so happens to be pretty much what *Cleo* is all about. The play takes place over a period of 14 years from 1964 to 1978 and is set backstage during the making of four *Carry On* films - hence the title - and revolves around Sid James's infatuation with Barbara Windsor.

For someone who prefers to keep

his personal life a closed book and who insists that he's astonished by people's obsession with the rich and famous, it's strange that Johnson has made his name by stuffing his plays full of well-known personalities. *Insignificance* featured Albert Einstein, Marilyn Monroe and Joe DiMaggio. *Hysteria* had Sigmund Freud and Salvador Dali, and the ghosts of Frankie Howerd and Benny Hill loomed in *Dead Funny*.

"I don't do it to promote celebrities as cults," Johnson says. "I do it as a quick way into talking about something. You don't have to explain who Einstein is. Ibsen wrote those hugely tedious first acts full of children running about so that you cared about the people who owned them. If he'd had my bright idea, he could have made his plays a lot shorter."

This is typical Johnson. A touch of humour to deflect an awkward ques-

tion. For while his answer has a ring of authenticity, it is not wholly convincing. To use the same device four times suggests a fascination for celebs that goes beyond idle curiosity. A similar sort of ambivalence characterises his writing for women.

Over the years, Johnson has gained a reputation for being one of the few male playwrights who write sympathetic roles for women. Yet, for someone who has been credited with such insight into the female psyche, he appears genuinely confused by the way women behave. But rather than admitting this - or perhaps not even realising it - he opted for the safety of political correctness.

All this may be about to change, though. "For some time I've been pretending to understand women with some mysterious success," Johnson joked in February. "But I'm beginning to wonder if I haven't given them the benefit of too much doubt. It seems to me that both sexes always will have different agendas, and that we've just developed a set of games to pretend it is not so. In other words, women try to achieve male power by using their sexuality in a male way, and men try to crush women's aspirations to power by pretending to be women."

In other words, women are as duplicitous as men. He went on to warn that women had better watch out when he wrote another play. It'll be a few days yet before we know whether Johnson has done what he promised, but if I were Barbara Windsor I wouldn't be feeling too comfortable right now.

Cleo, Camping, Emmanuelle and Dick is in preview at the Lyttelton, National Theatre, London SE1 (0171-452 3000).

DAVID BENEDICT

BIO-DRAMA GREATS: FROM HENRY VI TO ANITA HARRIS

Terry Johnson's *Cleo, Camping, Emmanuelle and Dick* contains veiled portraits of Sid James, Kenneth Williams and Barbara Windsor. So what's new?

The characters of his earlier play, *Insignificance*, were labelled The Professor, The Actress, The Senator and The Ballplayer but were played as Einstein, Monroe, McCarthy and diMaggio. I blame Shakespeare. Viewing his output is like watching a dramatised version of the National Portrait Gallery.

Famous figures popped up in plays for the next 350 years but the genre resurfaced with a

vengeance in the second Elizabethan age. Stoppard perked up *Travesties* with Tristan Tzara and James Joyce, and the explorer Isabella Bird was among the women in Caryl Churchill's *Top Girls*. Pam Gems's plays suggest that her inspiration comes from a biographical dictionary.

Some playwrights are oddly addicted to composers. Gesualdo and Peter Warlock starred in David Pownall's *Music to Murder By*. He then brought Prokofiev and Shostakovich together with Stalin for *Master Class*, not to be

confused with Terrence McNally's play of that name which starred Maria Callas. Peter Shaffer cast Mozart and Salieri in *Amadeus*.

Then there are the musicals. Everyone from the royal family - *I and Albert* - to the Holy family - *Jesus Christ Superstar* - and the Von Trapp family, has been immortalised in song alongside such unlikely eponymous heroes as Jean Seberg and Martin Luther King. And if there's anyone who saw Anita Harris giving her Florence Nightingale, rush me details.

DAVID BENEDICT

Cabaret. They can't take it away from us

SIMON CALLOW



TO THE Algonquin on Friday night to see the cabaret show described by the *New Yorker* critic as the best cabaret show he has ever seen. The man from the *New Yorker* got it right: it was an exquisite evening, funny and tender, and simplicity itself. Mary Clare Haran, with her impeccable diction and her easy charm, was the singer, taking each song as an opportunity not to display her genius but to communicate that of the Gershwins (it being George's centenary). She made sure that we got every witty conceit, delivering the rhyming schemes with particular pointed relish, doing full justice to the variety of the numbers without ever losing her relationship as a performer with us, entering piercingly into the ache at the heart of "The Man I Love" without one second indulging it, and then flicking effortlessly and unjarringly into the elegant exuberance of "It's De-lovely". The bass player, Line Millman, crept stealthily into each number, impeccably discreet, underpinning with subtle rhythmic flexibility its mood, making it breathe, ebb, flow, flex its muscles.

The team was completed by Richard Rodney Bennett. Completed by? Led by, inspired by, transformed by. To hear this man, the most complete musician of our time, relive and reshape these accompaniments is to hear Gershwin himself, as a composer, Bennett engages with the creative impulse of his great predecessor in a way which is uncanny, heart-stopping, each note at once inevitable and surprising. The inner life of the music informs every note; the why of it determines the how. This is only possible because of his extraordinary technique as a pianist, a springy, singing line, rhythm alive and changing second by second, dynamic control that grades every bar with constantly varying colours. You cannot doubt as you hear him play that this is great music by any standard.

It is when he sings which, from time to time in the course of the evening, he does, that something uncanny occurs. "Sing" is somewhat of an exaggeration: croons, croaks, purrs. Were it not so musical, one would say that he speaks the songs: it is as direct and as clear as the clearest speech. He sang "They Can't Take That Away From Me" with an unexaggerated simplicity which spared the emotion at the centre of the song, love's loss, to its very heart. A slight half-smile always plays about his lips as he sings; this is not method singing. The only person I have heard to compare to his effect on an audience was the late Mabel Mercer, at the end of her life,

with virtually no voice at all, turning a lyric with such precision of feeling and diction that each song became a three-act play in miniature, a complete and touching drama which by its very accuracy offered a distillation of universal experience. Here in New York, the original genius of the Gershwins recreated by this extraordinary team of Bennett, Haran and Millman provided moment after moment of genuinely cathartic emotion, as the words so directly communicated, so perfectly expressed musically, did their necessary healing work: none of us in that tiny room in mid-town Manhattan at midnight could fail to contemplate our own lives hearing "Someone To Watch Over Me": "Tell her to put on some speed/ Follow my lead/ Oh how I need/ Someone to watch over me."

Cabaret, by its nature, communicates: the singer looks into our eyes, the pianist and the bass player watch us, smiling, as they swing their mean riffs; and we are participants, contributors, our plainly visible smiles or tears spurring the performers on. This immediacy, this give and take, this electric flow can so easily get lost in the larger setting, whether in the theatre or the concert hall, the sense that perhaps the show might not go as planned, that the actors or singers or dancers are really here for us, now.

Last year I took part in a concert given by the London Philharmonic Orchestra. Vadim Repin gave a peerless performance of Prokofiev's First Violin Concerto; the audience applauded politely. After a couple of bows, he held his hand up, turned to the orchestral violinist and asked them to play a pizzicato figure. He then turned to the violas and cellos and gave them a second, complementary figure. Once their plucking was properly underway he himself played a Catherine's Wheel of a set of variations on the *Carnaval* of Venice. The staid, solid, imperturbable audience were transformed, thrilled, surprised, open-mouthed, beaming: as were the orchestra, who had had no notice of this. It suddenly became a live event. The spirit of cabaret was in the air.

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CLASSIC CARTOON

MARTIN PLIMMER ON GILBERT BUNDY

All I know about Gilbert Bundy is that he contributed to *Esquire* between 1933 and 1956. Also, that he had a quality of wit and authority of line that transcended *Esquire's* requirement for sanctity. The only Bundys in American biographical dictionaries are politicians or serial killers, the information superhighway hasn't heard of him and the International Museum of Cartoon Art hasn't heard of him. There are cave painters with higher profiles. This is the tragedy of the cartoon artist, the most disposable of published professionals, whose only biographical detail is the squiggle at the foot of his picture, often unreadable. Yet he may have created a couple of sardine-desiring glamour pussies who curl up in the imagination like a warm treat.



"We'll wait five minutes - then if we don't get a date we'll open the sardines"

Reality and its discontents

THE WEEK ON RADIO

REVIEWED BY ROBERT HANKS

"WHY WAS Doris Day such a good actress?" asks one of the characters in Charlotte Jones's play *Airsitting* (Radio 4, Thursday). "Because," her friend recites, "she was always confident, upbeat and utterly sure of her destiny."

This would not be a bad answer to the question "What made Herbert von Karajan such a good conductor?" - a question that *The Other Karajan* (Radio 3, Saturday) made you feel is genuinely a burning issue. To be fair, Karajan's conducting was rarely if ever upbeat, but he often achieved a relentless up-tempo pulse, sometimes in quite unlikely places. The title of this first programme, "Undertones of War", was supposed to reflect the extent to which war and the fear of war underlay much of his music. But the eventual effect was to thoroughly undermine that idea: even when playing the "Old Comrades" march, Karajan adopted a quite unwarlike briskness.

But nor did he sound like a man on the run. Richard Osborne, having set up the idea that fear of war was a shaping factor in his work, later seemed to contradict this when he said

that "two world wars both heightened and deepened his sense of music as 'the way', the one medium in which he could live, move and have his being". Listening to, in particular part of the finale of Bruckner's Eighth, you got a strong sense that Karajan simply shut out worldly things - that this was pure music, unsullied by the real world.

More escapes from reality in *Turn On, Turn Off - Drugs That Changed the World* (Radio 4, Tuesday), in which Susan Greenfield looked at how psychedelic drugs work and what we can learn about from this about how the brain functions. There was some satisfying hard science here, and precise subjective description of what various drugs do. Unfortunately, it was surrounded by some very soft radio clichés: the section on LSD was accompanied by Jefferson Airplane's "White Rabbit" ("One pill makes you larger and one

pill makes you small"), and Ecstasy, naturally, got high-bpm dance music. Be warned - making programmes on drugs can mess with your head.









And back to *Airsitting*, a play about retreating from reality: Sophie Thompson and Charlotte Jones played Persephone and Dora, confined to a home for the criminally insane in the 1920s - Persephone for having an illegitimate child, Dora for being too mannish. The action flashed between the Twenties and old age, when they have found solace in a shared imaginative life, centred largely on Persephone's Doris Day fixation.

Jones's script felt over-trimmed at 45 minutes - the bone of Boyle's new-look Radio 4 - and it was in places mannered and artificial. But it was often very funny. When they hold a mock baptism for Persephone's absent child, she wants to christen him Bastard; Dora groopes for a reason why she can't: "It would ruin his chances of Sandhurst for a start." But the way it found humour and compassion in madness, the freshness of the thing, made it feel much closer to real life than radio plays usually do.

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

BY FIONA STURGES



OVERVIEW	CRITICAL VIEW	OUR	ON VIEW	YOUR VIEW...
THE FILM <i>LETHAL WEAPON 4</i>  The fourth instalment of the light-hearted thriller follows the now wrinkly Detectives Riggs and Murtaugh, played by Mel Gibson and Danny Glover, taking on the Triads.	"To its credit, <i>Lethal Weapon 4</i> does strive to bring a fresh tang to a stale recipe," conceded Ryan Gilbey. "There are enough references to Riggs's age to create some interesting synchronicity between the actor and the role." <i>The Guardian</i> was enthralled: "The pre-title sequence is a special treat." "Approach [it] in a kindly	spirit and it's fun. Don't and it's depressingly stupid," warned the <i>Daily Mail</i> . "A harmless way of letting off steam." 	As a no-holds-barred actioner, <i>Lethal Weapon 4</i> can't be faulted; as a thought-provoking fable, don't even think about it.	MOE FAHED , 36, Contractor, London "A nice film, funny and entertaining. I think it's more of a comedy than the other ones. They have started to ham it up, to take the mickey out of it, which is good I think."
THE EXHIBITION <i>MIRROR IMAGE</i>  An exploration into how artists have represented reflected images in painting over the centuries, at London's National Gallery devised and curated by Jonathan Miller.	"Miller uses pictures to demonstrate perception, and perception as a clue to pictures," said Tom Lubbock. "Yet to see [an] image as impossible or paradoxical is to miss the point." <i>The Daily Telegraph</i> noted: "If Miller's explanations occasionally verge on the banal, his explanations are invariably fascinating and take his audience on a	journey of inquiry that ranges from the science of optics to anthropology, psychology and art history. "We live in the age of the exhibition as a multimedia event," noted <i>The Spectator</i> . "But 'Mirror Image' represents as highly a developed example of the phenomenon as we have seen... makes one look at paintings in a different way."	The distinguished polymath has presented us with a comprehensive and captivating examination of the nature of reflection in art that will revitalise your outlook on the world.	'Mirror Image: Jonathan Miller on Reflection' is showing at the National Gallery until 13 December. Mon-Tues, Thurs-Sat 10-6 Wed 10-8, Sun 12-6. For enquiries call 0171-747 2885.
THE PLAY <i>HANDBAG</i>  Following his controversial debut <i>Shopping and Fucking</i> , Mark Ravenhill's latest offering, subtitled <i>The Importance of Being Someone</i> , explores contemporary disasters in child-rearing.	"Ingenious and highly entertaining," cried a delighted Paul Taylor, noting "a heady mixture of inter-textual high links, tough, sexually explicit black comedy, and moments of desperate anguish." <i>The Financial Times</i> declared: "Whole PhD these could be written on <i>Handbag</i> . [Ravenhill] is - it is now more evident - a searing, intelligent,	disturbing sociologist with a talent for satirical dialogue and a flair for sexual sensationalism." <i>The Times</i> was less impressed: "Years of experience of attending Fringe theatres still haven't inoculated me against staged atrocity... If Ravenhill is arguing for the value of loving, biological parents he goes a bizarre way about it."	Prepare to be horrified. As provocative as its predecessor, Mark Ravenhill's latest offering is a shrewd, witty survey of the complications of parenthood in the age of biological engineering.	Handbag is running at the Lyric Studio, Hammersmith, until 10 October. Mon-Sat 8pm, tickets £5. For bookings and enquiries call 0181-741 8701.
THE ALBUM <i>MECHANICAL ANIMALS</i>  Hot on the heels of the stop-gap release <i>Remix and Repent</i> , the androgynous hell-raiser from Hollywood returns to celebrate new forms of degradation with <i>Mechanical Animals</i> .	"A more sinister take on the same theme as Radiohead's 'Paranoid Android', depicting a modern world in which the more noble aspects of humanity have been worn threadbare by drugs," said Andy Gill, observing "a retreat of ideas done to death by glam and punk." "Out goes industrial banging and screaming," stated <i>The Guardian</i> , "in comes glam rock	reminiscent of Bowie..." "Manson has attempted to put some musical flesh on the bones of his carefully contrived image," said <i>The Times</i> . "The result is a collection of cartoon electro-glam-rock songs that will sit comfortably on the shelf alongside almost-forgotten albums by Babylon Zoo and Gary Numan."	Though in possession of considerably more focus than their last album, <i>Mechanical Animals</i> recycles ideas already dealt with ad nauseam by the likes of David Bowie etc	Marilyn Manson's <i>Mechanical Animals</i> is available from Monday, priced £13.99.
THE OPERA <i>OTELLO</i>  This realist interpretation of Verdi's opera, based on Shakespeare's tragedy, is set in 20th-century Cyprus with the Moor as a UN officer and Desdemona as an army wife.	"In bringing <i>Otello's</i> triumph and catastrophe that much closer to us, we must first and foremost believe what we see. And I didn't for one second... Nothing about it rang true," opined Edward Seckerson. <i>The Financial Times</i> expressed "sorrow for the cast that had struggled valiantly to surmount the noise and ugliness of David	Freeman's pseudo-realistic modern setting... We needed a pick-me-up and we were given a depressant." "A gripping staging," contradicted <i>The Times</i> . "This pale-brown <i>Otello</i> inveighing against 'the swollen pride of Islam' sets up vibrations that are relevant both historically and from a contemporary point of view... A complete knockout."	David Freeman's pursuit of realism has stripped <i>Otello</i> of credibility. In the wake of the turmoil at the ROH, ENO's ill-judged reading of Verdi's masterpiece will compound the misery of operaphiles.	Otello is on at the London Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, WC2. 7.30pm (3 October 6.30pm) until 22 October. For bookings and enquiries call 0171-632 8300.
THE FILM <i>LOVE IS THE DEVIL</i>  John Maybury's stylised biopic examines the troubled relationship of Francis Bacon and his lover and muse George Dyer. Starring Derek Jacobi and Daniel Craig.	Ryan Gilbey stated, "It mixes up [Bacon's] life and work as though the two were squiggles of paint on a palette, combined to achieve a pungent, unfamiliar new shade." "So sustained is the film's experimentalism that one sometimes longs for a conventional masterstroke or a close-up," remarked <i>I-D</i> , while <i>Time Out</i> rap-	tured, "tough, often tender, wholly compelling, and one of the finest films ever made about an artist." But the <i>Mail</i> fulminated: "Maybury's direction is tiresomely tricky, and he finds it impossible to imitate Bacon's nightmarish artistic style photographically."	Unconventional without being alienating, Maybury's portrait of Bacon is refreshingly original, sensitive and utterly engrossing.	Love Is The Devil is on general release as of yesterday, certificate 18. 90 minutes.
THE BOOK <i>EAST AND WEST</i>  Despite Rupert Murdoch's controversial embargo on its previous publishers, HarperCollins, Chris Patten's account of his time in Hong Kong finally makes it to the bookshops.	"Given the noise that preceded it, Patten's book is almost bound to disappoint," remarks Justin White. "Whatever else it may be, it certainly isn't a blow-by-blow account of the wrangles that plagued his governorship, though it hints the truth... would be found unbelievable." "In Hong Kong Patten became... an impassioned middle-aged	man," argues <i>Prospect</i> . "This book, with its rousing defence of the universal liberal democracy, is one of the results." <i>The Daily Telegraph</i> noted: "East and West does not tell us much about East and West, but it tells us a lot about Patten. Generous to his friends, he baits his enemies, identifiably, but not by name."	Though forthcoming about the nature of governorship, Patten withholds detail about the principal disputes that plagued him - an approach that places his book amid the common ruck of Asia surveys.	East and West (Macmillan) is available in bookshops at £22.50. Next Saturday, you can see the first in the three-part BBC2 series, <i>Chris Patten's East and West</i> , starting at 7.20pm.

A performance of two halves

IN THE famous "gay" episode of *thirtysomething*, a closeted man turned to a prospective boyfriend, pointed to a framed photo on his desk and whispered: "They don't know... they think I'm married to Bernadette Peters."

Having your name used as the punchline to a joke on national TV might be regarded as some kind of career high, but on Thursday night there was another hill to be climbed when Bernadette Peters made her London debut.

In the end, it turned out to be surprisingly easy. All she did was walk onstage, and the crowd went wild. Standing ovations tend to happen at the end of a performance, but this audience was simply dying.

CONCERT

BERNADETTE PETERS
ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
LONDON

to tell the diva how much they loved her for her knockout performances on the original cast albums of *Mack and Mabel*, *Sunday in the Park with George*, and *Into the Woods*.

The voice is unique. To be honest, in terms of pure sound, it's a mess. It is desperately uneven, rich and vibrant on certain notes, and thin on others. She can go from husky low tones to a heady top range, but the gear change isn't exactly synchronised.

All of which is somewhat beside the point. It's the

expressive qualities she builds from these technical limitations that makes Peters so distinctive. Like Judi Dench, she uses the roughness and the haunting crack in the voice to truly emotional effect.

Bare-shouldered, sheathed in something floor-length and sparkly, she's big on tight little wriggles, working those saucer-sized eyes and treading a line between self-love and self-mockery.

With her peek-a-boo lips and a torrent of red ringlets framing her heart-shaped face and cascading down her back, she looks like a mermaid in shoes. She is also, in an age of popular singers who take themselves frighteningly seriously, a musical comedy performer.

She purred, crooned and dripped mischievousness, sprawled across a grand piano singing "Sooner or Later" from Sondheim's score for *Dick Tracy*, then donned evening gloves to smoulder Bette Midler-style through a wickedly funny, cha-cha rhythm "Making Love Alone" about the kind of love that fits hand in glove: "Who can describe/The special sweetness/Of knowing you're going/The speed that is right?"

The best material was in the second half which was devoted to Sondheim. However, as the evening progressed through its two-and-a-half hours (plus interval), we quickly began to hit the law of diminishing returns.

Too many of Marvin Laird's

arrangements not only exposed her mannerisms, they also allowed her to wring every last piece of emotion out of every single word she sang, which in the end had the reverse effect. Yes, the exquisite ache of "Not a Day Goes By" is expressed in the lyric, but the emotional effect relies on the constant flow of the harmonies, played through the quietly relentless rhythm. Break it up, and the song collapses.

At full pelt she is quite something. "Being Alive" was unadorned and stunning. Best of all was a driven "Some People" from *Gypsy* which set the place on fire: no messing, just singing. In this case, less really is more.

DAVID BENEDICT

Band that Jacques built

POP

THE TIGER LILLIES
THE SPITZ
LONDON

THEY LOOKED like exhumations from a Twenties prop-box, but they sounded like nothing on earth: the three men who constitute the Tiger Lillies may claim kinship with Satchmo and Louis Lomax, but what they did in the convivial confines of The Spitz this week owed nothing to anyone.

Belabouring the drums with dead chickens, giant bones and a variety of improbable mallets was Adrian Huges; extracting deep continuo from his amplified bass was Adrian Stout. Soul of the party - and only begueter of the band - was Martyn Jacques, the preposterous falsethist, built like a night-club bouncer and sounding like Dame Edna on speed.

Jacques studied philosophy at a theological college (before being sent down for an act of terminal sacrilege), but his formative years were spent among pimps and prostitutes in Soho: this remains his preferred artistic terrain. And many of his songs are directly autobiographical: the tenant burnt out of his flat by a gangster landlord, the clipper-girl found stabbed to death on the doorstep. The final song surveyed a whole landscape of the dead, many destroyed by their own hand, some violently destroyed by others.

Yet, paradoxically, the effect was one of peace, and it's interesting to try to analyse why. For a start, his pacing is a per-



Heading for stardom - The Tiger Lillies

fect blend of furious rage and spaced-out dreaminess, and his songs are seamlessly joined. Second, the beauty of presentation grows with the outrageousness of what he has to say. Third - and most important - he's a natural musical raconteur. From the moment he played his first chord, the whole crowded club fell silent. Though

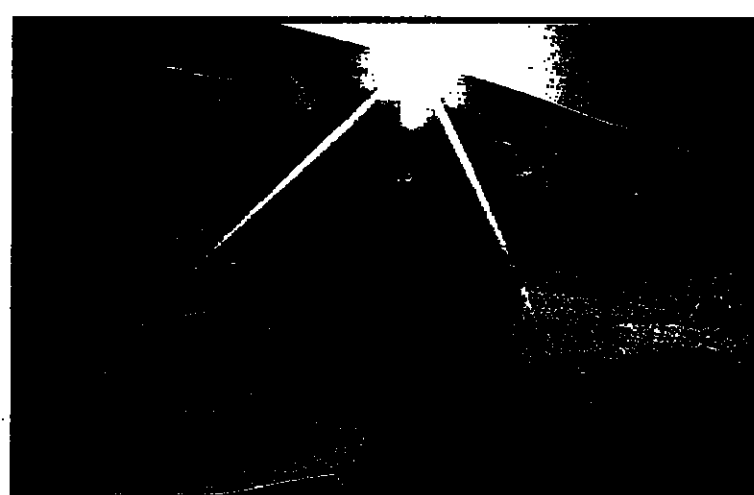
these were, of course, Jacques devotees.

He and his band are now poised for stardom, thanks to their huge followings in Paris, Hamburg and New York. I suspect this is due to their quintessential Englishness: sweetly illogical, and mad as hatters in the Lear-Carroll mode.

MICHAEL CHURCH

THIS WEEK IN

THE INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY



Scotland at the crossroads

It's a year since the Scots said 'Yes' to devolution, and support for the Scottish National Party - and independence - is growing. The ultimate consequences could shatter the United Kingdom. In a special edition of the *Sunday Review*, writers including Tom Nairn, Pat Kane, and Ian Bell explore what is going on north of the border, politically, culturally and economically

THE BOOKS INTERVIEW

Heavenly creatures

Jennifer Johnston, godmother to new Irish writing, talks angels and incense with John Walsh

Nobody has yet thought of photographing the cream of English literary society in bed together. But when the publishers of *Pinbar's Hotel* elected to cram the co-authors of this portmanteau novel into a Sturminster Newton King-Size, the results were alarming. Novelists are a dodgy-looking bunch at the best of times but the combination of Dermot Bolger (resembling a rehabilitated hermit), Roddy Doyle (unsuccessful pimp), Anne Enright (warden of women's prison), Colm Toibin (furtive stevedore) and Hugo Hamilton (low-rent bouncer) was enough to convince readers that fiction was not a calling for the pure of heart.

At one end of the bed was the strangest sight of all – a large woman of mature years and craggy demeanour, wearing gangster shades and seeming aloof from this frivolous photoshoot, like Britannia in her chariot, being invited to share a divan with a squad of infantrymen.

"I was astounded to be asked to contribute," she says, two years later. "I felt like the other writers' bloody grandmother."

Jennifer Johnston is in a sense the spiritual godmother of much modern Irish writing. Now 68, she has for a quarter-century been turning out superior fictions that both embody the wounds of Irish life – its struggle to escape from religious, colonial and cultural domination – and offer the luxury of writing about things beyond its immediate orbit.

She writes about the end of the Protestant Ascendancy (in *The Gates*), about sectarian violence (in *Shadows on Our Skin*) and the magnetic draw of the past (passion, from *The Captains and the Kings* in 1972). But she also allows herself to escape from the subject of Irishness and write, movingly, about getting older and the awkwardness of love and the untrustworthy dazzle of new relationships.

She doesn't see a clean break between her condition-of-Ireland novels and her more recent comedies of manners: "Writing about carrying the past on your back is a manifestation of my Irishness, because we go on and on and will for another two or three generations," she says. "Look around at the countries of Europe and you'll find that practically all of them have pasts that are just as tragic as Ireland's, yet the people seem able to find some creative way at moving into the future."

Like Vichy France? "Absolutely. Even the haunted Germans are able to move from under that terrible shadow of the war. But one of our major problems is that we haven't allowed ourselves to do this – not just the decolonisation from the English but also from the Church."

Jennifer Johnston's books are full of suspicion about history, but there's no mistaking her love for its texture. Her prose likes to search around in the redolent nooks of old houses and old, upsetting memories. Her new novel, *Two Moons* (Headline Review, £14.99), is a diverting fantasy about the agelessness of charm, in which the elderly Mimi is visited by an angel, Bonifacio, once a shoemaker in the Renaissance. He pours her glasses of Italian wine and encourages her to reckless expenditure (on shoes, which Ms Johnston loves).

The book is also a bittersweet demonstration of the impossibility of love, as Mimi's volatile actress daughter Grace gradually discovers why her marriage failed, and is besieged by the lovelorn youth who is engaged to her daughter. A complex image-cluster of tears, wine, light, hands, the moon, Shakespeare and the sexual utility of pine forests makes the book shimmer like an old painting.



JENNIFER JOHNSTON, A BIOGRAPHY

Novelist and playwright Jennifer Johnston was born in Dublin in 1930 to actress Sheila Richards and playwright Denis Johnston. She was educated at Park House School and Trinity College, Dublin. Her first marriage was to lawyer Ian Smyth. They had four children. After their divorce, she married solicitor David Gilliland. They live close to

the Irish border by the River Foyle. A republican, her two main themes are abandonment and yearning, and the Anglo-Irish connection. Her first novel was *The Captains and the Kings* (1972). *Shadows on Our Skin* (1977) was shortlisted for the Booker Prize, and *The Old Jest* (1979) won the Whitbread Award for Fiction. She has written 11 novels.

It was so seductive, the smell of incense, the dancing candles and the holy statues which were so gross but then seemed so wonderful. It was a phase. It didn't last long.

Her only religious impulse since then was a recent desire to become a Benedictine Monk, following a 24-hour retreat at Glenstowel Abbey, surrounded by the tumbled towers singing Vespers. "It was like being in the Middle Ages, in a church in Venice singing Monteverdi. I told my husband what I really wanted to be a Benedictine monk. But I can't sing, so that's it."

She shakes her massive head, regretfully. She was born into a talented family. Her father was Denis Johnston, the playwright whose two best works, *The Old Lady Says No!* and *The Moon in the Yellow River*, were considered classics in Twenties Dublin. Her mother, to whom *Two Moons* is dedicated, was Sheila Richards, the actress. Both were alarming presences. "My father was

a little frightening, a huge man, six foot four and he looked like God. He was always a visitor, as far as I was concerned, because my parents separated when I was nine. We only became friends when he was old and began to shrink. During the war he was a BBC war correspondent, and did some extraordinary broadcasts. Though he was born and bred in Dublin, he felt British."

Her mother was from the posh Dublin upper-classes of Fitzwilliam Street. "She was like a lion. She was great and she was awful. Our friends had mothers who made jam and were home when their children came back from school... But we weren't neglected. We had a nanny who had housekeepers and were with us forever and loved us. My mother was there as an extraordinary phenomenon in our lives. She knew how to put the boot in, then would be backed with guilt and would appear with some little present."

There were drama-salon parties, at

which the stars were Hilton Edwards and Michael MacLiammoir, the gay theatrical duo known as "Sodom and Begorrah", whose florid extravaganzas Jennifer would watch with amazement and of whom she speaks warmly. "I love people who invent their lives," she said, "have totally different lives from the one they might have led if they hadn't taken this great step."

Jennifer Johnston is big on recreating herself. Her conversation is full of makeovers and changing identities, whether of a country, like Ireland, or a person, like the various people she has been in the course of two marriages. She believes that love and passion always lead to betrayal or damage, and that most marriages need a saving dash of realism if they're going to survive.

All these themes have found a place in her books, along with a strain of magical realism that surfaces again and again as she talks. As when she describes Derry, where she has lived since marrying David Gilliland in 1976. She accepts with stoicism the procession of bombings and maimings that have hurt many of their friends. "It's just awful. One of the worst things is feeling, during times like the hunger strikes or the aftermath of Enniskillen, that the actual air was weighted. You felt like you were carrying heavy air on your shoulders. Like when you get out of bed in the morning and can hardly move with the anguish that's weighing on you."

You look at Jennifer Johnston, with her tinted shades, her flowing tribal-matriarch hair and her bruised heart, and think: if ever someone could have done with a guardian angel in her life, it is she.

COVER STORIES



CLARE ALEXANDER – the publisher who rescued Chris Patten from HarperCollins only to find herself in an untenable position at Macmillan – has announced her latest move. As predicted, she has decided to join the ranks of publishers-turned-agents, of which the most celebrated is ex-Cape director David Godwin, discoverer of Arundhati Roy. It had been suggested that Alexander would join the Godwin agency. Instead, she has accepted an offer from Gillon Aitken, erstwhile partner of the unsocialised Andrew Wylie. Meanwhile, Macmillan, and Viking, from whom she also parted acrimoniously, must be awaiting the terms of Alexander's vengeance.

SUCK, DON'T Blow, which sounds like one of those Congressional reports, is in fact "the gripping story of the vacuum cleaner and other labour-saving machines". Michael O'Mara Books publishes the book next month and there is, apparently, no truth in the rumour that it includes a foreword by Bill Clinton. Those whose appetite for details of the Starr Report remains unsated will be delighted to learn that Orion has already rush-released the full text of the Special Prosecutor's findings, with Simon & Schuster following suit next week. That should knock Irvine Welsh's *Fifth* off the bestseller lists.

IN THE high street, Austicks is no more, Heffers is on the block, while profits at Foyles are down 11 per cent. Meanwhile, the Maher name is rising phoenix-like from the ashes of the Dillons-Pantos collapse. Tony Maher, son of Terry (who built up Dillons and fought the NBA), is building towards a national operation. Maher the Bookseller opens its fifth branch in Edgware next month and plans another before Christmas. The question is, has Maher Junior – ex-manager of the Birmingham branch of Dillons – learned from the costly mistakes of his father?

NEXT THURSDAY sees the announcement of the Booker shortlist. All the usual suspects are likely to be included and, with Douglas Hurd chairing the judging panel, it's possible that 1998 may see a breakthrough for the sort of genre fiction that is usually excluded. The former Foreign Secretary has, after all, written several crime novels. Much razzmatazz surrounds this year's prize, which is celebrating its 30th birthday. But could this be the last hurrah for the Booker? The food distributor is still trying to restructure and last week posted a 50 per cent fall in profits. But the Booker prize plays an important role in literary life and its demise would be keenly felt, even by the sugar and salmon suppliers for whom an invitation to the corporate shindig is highly prized.

THE LITERATOR

The unnatural selector

Francis Spufford enjoys a glimpse of the world that evolution killed

ONE OF the best books of literary criticism of the last 20 years, Gillian Beer's *Darwin's Plots*, explored the take-up of evolutionary ideas in the Victorian novel. The notion of chance as a branching tree instead of a linear progress; a new sense of the interdependence of organism and environment; the impersonal pattern that might underlie society's customs: Darwinism was a fount of new stories, not just the theory that destroyed Genesis. The discursiveness of 19th-century fiction made for a rewarding fit with the new biology's networks of kinship. Ever since, there has been a kinship between evolutionary theory and the "novel of ideas".

But Darwinism has never lost its power to destabilise. You don't have to believe God created the world in six days to assume that the span of a human life is the natural focus of the cosmos, and that certainty still capsize at the reminder that human behaviour is just animal behaviour in a world indifferent to individual life. So there has always been fiction using Darwin for satire or reproach, continuing to the present with Will



Mr Darwin's Shooter
by Roger McDonald
Anchor, £9.99, 413pp

Self's Great Apes or Jenny Diski's *Monkey's Uncle*.

The surprise of *Mr Darwin's Shooter* is that it doesn't have a Darwinian plot of either kind. As an index of the priority science has in it, there is an accurate phrenological reading of its protagonist, the sailor Symon Covington. Darwin's assistant on HMS Beagle, from Covington's bumps "a doglike fondness was no surprise; powers of concentration and challenge; a streak of resentment; helpfulness; secretiveness..."

McDonald has written a novel of character just as dogged and warm. It's Covington's life that sets the tempo here.

Covington is an obscure figure, but his later incarnation as a man of property in New South Wales, and Darwin's own hints at a complexity he would rather not plumb, have given McDonald scope for a sustained piece of imagining. The truism says that no man is a hero to his valet. McDonald is more interested in what the valet gets from the scientific legend.

Covington's fault as a servant is that he wants to be recognised. He is devoted, but won't settle down into the persona of "Trusted Cobby". We meet him first as the irascible old ox of a landowner in Australia, tired of patronage. He tries to redeem his failure with "CD" by replaying the relationship (to a young doctor in the colony) as a friendship. Gradually, as frivolous Dr McCracken begins to guess at the history behind the overtures made to him, the young Covington emerges: the red-haired bullock of a boy, "as smart as a carrot new-scraped", eager to admire the gent in the cabin

next to Captain Fitzroy's.

The scenes of discomfort on both sides are beautifully observed. McDonald is richly alert to the irony of Covington's animal spirits, compared to the biologist's fleshly inhibition. If there's a criticism of the book, it's that the collective chip on the Aussie literary shoulder manifests itself here in the treatment of the gentry as distant, stunted aliens.

The author may not be pursuing the drama of ideas, but the idea of natural selection has one terribly destructive consequence. The overturn of the creation story destroys Covington's faith. We believe in his vulnerable belief because we witness the ecstatic vision of the world McDonald gives him. He comes from an England as luminous as a stained-glass window, where ragged boys chant the catechism as they march along the field paths. This is a lavish, rich, novel in an idiosyncratic countryman's voice, thickened with metaphor. In this Eden, Darwin plants "the seed of dismay". The novel ends as a sympathetic lament for the world we have lost, thanks to 19th-century biology.

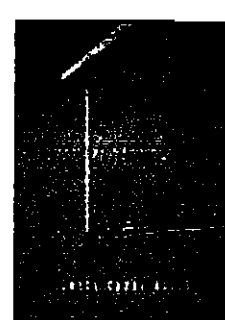
Teenagers in trouble

Wendy Brandmark scratches a delinquent and finds a victim

FROM A trembling, two-seater Cessna plane, Ingrid Boone glimpses "the edge of the world that's always there whether you see it or not or know it or not. So close you could be sucked over easy as sleep." She has clung for so long to the edge that her fall into the dark heart of a biker gang feels like a release.

Ingrid is a child of violence. Her father, a pilot who learned to kill in Vietnam, hides from the police after being implicated in a drug dealer's murder. Her beautiful, jittery mother follows him to a series of decrepit safe houses in upstate New York where Ingrid witnesses drunken brawls. He disappears after murdering one of her mother's lovers, but surfaces like a ghoul at the gates of Ingrid's school, enticing her with ice cream and money. A handsome, violent outcast whose love must be won with promises of complicity in lawlessness, he is the archetype of her future lovers.

Ingrid grows up a bright but disturbed teenager, a "Doll-girl" boys use and discard. She becomes estranged from her mother who seems ad-



Man Crazy
by Joyce Carol Oates
Virago, £15.99, 288pp

dicted to drink and men, "saying it didn't matter if the man you're with is nobody you much care for, other men will be looking you over too. It's the other men, the men you haven't yet met, one of them who'll maybe change your life, you're fixing yourself up for."

Ingrid's Mr Right is a biker whose gang deals in drugs and teenage girls. Enoch Skaggs, ex-con and "scourge of the Aryan race", is less a character than a nightmare, but

Ingrid willingly returns to him even after having been raped, beaten and half-starved, because the pain inflicted by her Satanic Daddy makes her feel alive. Only when she is locked in the cellar and can feel death creeping over her does she remember her mother's love and her own small will to live.

Joyce Carol Oates has written some of the best and most Gothic of her fiction about disaffected working-class adolescent girls in America. An early short story, "Where are you going? Where have you been?", shows the terrifying blankness of the teenage heroine stalked by a creepy man, a forerunner of Enoch Skaggs. In a later work, *Foxfire*, a gang of teenage girls from homes almost as violent and chaotic as Ingrid's use their sexuality in a bizarre revolt against the men who exploit them.

Yet *Man Crazy* seems more violent and perverse than these earlier fictions. It is as if Oates were no longer content to suggest the horror; she must show the betrayal of innocence, the bloody rituals based on the breaking of all commandments: "Jesus Christ

would not be so cruel as Satan but Satan is the one who, when you call, he comes."

This novel may shock but does not haunt us in the same way as some of her other works. Often she allows an emptiness, a moral no-man's land, to stretch eerily between the reader and characters, but in *Man Crazy* Ingrid speaks directly to us in a voice as nervous as her fingers, always picking at her scabs and now pulling us through the shrill scenes of her life. She may be the victim who scars herself instead of fighting back, yet she articulates her anguish and anger in a confession whose desperation is also its beauty. This is not Oates's most subtle novel, yet the writing has a dark lyricism which, like Ingrid's love-starved face, will not be easily forgotten.

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The diary of a nobody

David Cesarani asks how an idle nonentity was able to bring terror to his nation and the world

The apparently insatiable interest in Hitler is not simply ghouliness or a fascination with absolute power. In a theologically impoverished, philosophically illiterate culture, Hitler has become synonymous with evil, and discussion of the Holocaust a substitute for serious thought about morality. At another level, the preoccupation reflects a deep anxiety that Hitler was not an aberration, but a structurally embedded phenomenon of modernity.

Understanding Hitler is also freighted with urgency. The turmoil in Russia inevitably provoked a wary search for a Führer in the wings or even already on the political stage. To be forewarned, we need a profile of the personality and belief system of the past, and hence potential, Führer.

As Ian Kershaw admits in his exemplary biography, even the most sober scholar cannot fail to be awed by the burden that comes with studying the Nazi dictator. Kershaw, one of the foremost chroniclers of the Nazi era, brings to his subject a deep familiarity with the milieu which formed Hitler. But he never loses sight of the man. On the contrary, he has arrived at a solution to the perennial dilemma of the political biographer: how to place the subject in context, and connect personality with environment.

Hitler crafted a persona that was designed to service his political goals. What evidence does testify to his "real" character suggests that little existed in the first place. The vacancy of the man enabled him to act as representative of the masses, struggling hero, valiant leader, and so on.

By careful forensic work, drawing on new material in Russian archives and the latest scholarship from a new wave of German historians, Kershaw reveals that most of the autobiographical passages of *Mein Kampf* are self-serving rhetoric. Whereas previous biographers relied on Hitler's version of his life, Kershaw ekes out corroborative evidence, buttressing it with his own formidable knowledge.

He shows how the struggling leader of the small Nazi party rewrote his youth to appear as a man of destiny, with a long-established belief system. In *Mein Kampf*, Hitler attributed the formation of his politics to his vagrant years in Vienna from 1909 to 1913.



Studio portraits of Hitler that were passed off as pictures of him speaking to an audience. They were taken by Heinrich Hoffman to provide close-ups from angles that he could not reach during rallies and meetings

Kershaw exposes this fabrication and undermines all the nonsense about Hitler's world-view stemming from ill-treatment by a Jewish prostitute or sexual inadequacy.

For a few months during 1909-10, he was very poor and slept rough or in doss-houses, but mostly he lived in respectable shabbiness in a hotel for employed single men. He earned an adequate living as an artist and, although he ranted about politics, displayed no signs of Manichean anti-Semitism. He got on amicably with the mostly Jewish art dealers who bought his paintings.

The First World War "made Hitler possible". He was a good soldier and was twice decorated, the second time on the recommendation of a Jewish officer. But Germany's defeat deprived him of the first satisfying life he had known: like most Germans, he wanted to blame someone. Like many, he picked on the Marxists and the Jews. But the "revelation" he claimed to have experienced in hospital while recovering from the effects of a gas attack seems greatly embroidered.

His conversion took rather longer. Hitler witnessed the short-lived Bolshevik regime in Bavaria in 1919 and frequently alluded to this as a portent of what might befall Germany. But he never admitted that he continued in the Bavarian

army even when it was subordinate to "Marxist Jews". Either he was a hypocrite, or else his monolithic outlook was still germinating.

Kershaw proves the latter. The army provided Hitler with his world view, rather than the other way around. It hired him to penetrate right-wing groups and trained him as a propaganda officer. Hitler drew army pay even when he became an activist in the German Workers Party, forerunner of the NSDAP (Nazis). Now his speeches and letters began to reveal his ultra-nationalism, social Darwinism, anti-Marxism and anti-Semitism.

Yet Hitler was only distinguishable from other agitators by virtue of his rhetorical talents and gift for propaganda. Moreover, he was dependent on powerful backers. Kershaw shows that Hitler, average in most ways, was unusually blessed by good luck and patrons. He was also lucky with his lieutenants: he could not bear paperwork, and the Nazi organisation was done by Gre-

strasser, while Ernst Röhm forged the SA, the party militia.

Hitler used his ludicrously brief spell in prison in 1924, following the failed Munich putsch, to compose *Mein Kampf*. Here his politics crystallised. To regain its place in the world Germany needed to acquire living space - *lebensraum* - in the east, and destroy the Jewish-Bolshevik menace. Germans were destined for this cosmic role: Hitler was ordained to be their leader.

Kershaw regards the next half decade, usually dismissed as the wilderness years, as critical. Hitler presided over the creation of a party that could exploit the crisis of Weimar when it came. He concentrated on propaganda and mobilisation, embodying the popular longing for unity and articulating the aspirations of every discontented group. He could not formulate policy or arbitrate between conflicting interests since this would have risked alienating one or more sections of the party or society.

Hitler's absence of character thus helped him to remain "everyman". In return for his charismatic leadership, he demanded total subordination. By offering themselves as a catch-all party of protest, whose leader was a palimpsest of dissatisfaction, the Nazis garnered votes from every section of society when the Depression struck. However, far from being a personal "triumph of the will", as he liked to depict it, Hitler's route to power rested on the machinations of others.

Following his party's electoral breakthrough in September 1930, he was courted by the power-brokers. After two years of intrigue, which Kershaw charts with masterful clarity, Hitler was "levered into power" by a political elite. The mass of Germans were bystanders to what happened in January 1933. In the fateful words of Von Papen, the ex-Chancellor, "We've hired him".

In office, Hitler outmanoeuvred opponents and allies. The establishment of the dictatorship was achieved partly through terror and pseudo-legal means, but Kershaw stresses how often key individuals or bodies voluntarily aligned with the Nazis. Hitler and the party did amazingly little. At his most conscientious he would rise in mid-morning and see aides or ministers until lunchtime. In the afternoon he might attend some meetings, but was never in his office. By 1936, his role in government was confined to snap decisions, taken in the hour before lunch, based on options put to him by members of his entourage.

Ministers and civil servants deduced from his writings and utterances what he wanted. They knew that anticipating the wishes of the Führer was a key to advancement and riches, the latter being of no small matter since the Third Reich was endemically corrupt. This engendered radicalisation since Hitler's underlings naturally sought to gratify his most extreme aspirations and exaggerated their prowess to fend off rivals. Ultimately, the system provoked its own destruction.

Whereas previous biographers began with the assumption that Hitler was extraordinary, falling prey to his mythology, it is the very ordinariness of this Hitler that is so awful. The tragic message of this superb biography is that it could so easily have gone the other way.

Professor David Cesarani's *Life of Arthur Koestler* will appear later this autumn (Heinemann)

INSPIRATIONS CRIME WRITER LAUREN HENDERSON



The place London in general and Camden Town in particular, my personal centre of the universe. I used to live on Pratt Street and it was pretty much paradise to hit the indie clubs - Silver at the Underworld on Saturday, Feet First at the Camden Palace on Tuesday - and stagger out with my head flogging with noise at two in the morning, feet sore from pounding away at the floor, and be home passed out on my futon in five minutes.

The play *Racine* for the sense of inexorable fate twisting tighter and tighter round the characters: a terrible, slow-building suspense. And *Polygrapher* or *Tectonic Plates* by Robert Lepage. He's a magician; and his productions are pure theatre.

The film *Vampire* films, the twisted off-beat ones; Kathryn Bigelow's *Near Dark* - Mid-West vampires and Adrian Pasdar, beautiful enough to be an inspiration in himself. And anything with the young Robert Mitchum.

The artwork *Think Girl*, the comic by Alan Martin and Jamie Hewlett. NOT the film: when *Time Out* compared my sleuth Sam to Tank Girl it was one of the proudest moments of my life. Dali, Edward Hopper, Frida Kahlo: like other people's dreamscapes.

The music Dark Goth stuff with great lyrics. The first time I heard "Smells Like Teen Spirit" by Nirvana, at a tiny indie club on Oxford Street, the dance floor was paralysed for a moment, then just exploded.

Lauren Henderson's *Freeze My Margarita* is published by Hutchinson at £10.

When death descends on hearth and home

Patricia Craig discovers a very modern tragedy unfolding deep in the shady byways of Essex

LOSS AND dereliction, the presiding elements of Felicia's Journey in 1994, continue to animate William Trevor's fiction. *Death in Summer* is no exception, for all its temperate ironies and near-comic conversations. The plot is deceptively simple. In the flatlands of Essex stands a house named Quincunx. Built in 1896, and recently restored with money acquired through marriage, it is the property of Thaddeus Davent, a middle-aged man of reticent temperament, whose life is about to undergo some annihilating changes.

First comes the death of Thaddeus's wife Letitia after a footling accident in an Essex lane. Their

daughter Georgina, six months old, is left on Thaddeus's unpractised hands. In response to an advertisement, four young women apply for the post of nanny, before Letitia's mother steps into the breach.

The last would-be nanny, and the most ineligible of the lot, succumbs to an *idée fixe* involving her hoped-for employer. Disaster follows.

Within this narrow framework, Trevor stage-manages a narrative of extraordinary resonance, rich in implications. The encroachment of social ills and abuses, including

child abuse, figures in the story, with a home named the Morning Star, now defunct, opposed to Victorian Quincunx, the solid family home (albeit with its own deprivations). If Thaddeus seems, in a sense, to belong to the past - the decorous Englishman with a taste for family comic sexual entanglements - he is surrounded by enough contemporary darkness to keep him from looking altogether anachronistic.

Life, even country-house life, contains new horrors in plenty to oust the sedate homicides of the old-fashioned detective novels favoured by baby Georgina's grandmother.

This is a novel about the destructive power of fantasy, on one level; and on another, about the founding as a literary trope of the founding and its opposite, the stolen child. The stolen child has another counterpart in the stolen childhood, of which we get several versions. The rejected nanny, a bespectacled shoplifter going by the name of Pettie, and her friend and protector Albert Luffe, a boy of al-



Death in Summer by William Trevor
Viking, £15.99, 224pp

most ludicrous goodness, if not quite the full shilling: these two are one-time inmates of the Morning Star Home, and survivors of a crushing regime. In Trevor's hands, they are endowed with wholly individual voices and aspirations - as are even the most minor characters.

Written with all the resources of a sympathetic understanding, *Death in Summer* eschews moral judgments while engaging to the full in the novelist's business of precipitating a crisis, or series of crises. It is constructed to ensure that

several crucial wheels of plot come full circle, as the first death - Letitia's - is followed by a second, and third. Like its predecessor, Felicia's Journey, the book goes part of the way along the path of the thriller before veering off into an astringency and virtuosity of its own.

"Compassionate" is the word most frequently used to describe William Trevor's attitude to the world - the world, as Derek Mahon quoted in a poem, being "everything that is the case". Compassion is indeed an ingredient here, along with clear-sightedness and an elegance of diction that is approaching ever more closely to the elegiac.

Monumental errors

SO MUCH for the power of the press. A few months back, and not for the first time, I seethed in these pages over the propensity of mainstream publishers to bankroll occult fantasies. The lost secrets of the pyramids, drowned continents, the stone traces of an Elder Race: the whole shebang of New Age history now has the British book trade in its grip.

So what happens? I go on seething, sorry that I failed to exempt the pukka Thames & Hudson ancient-history list from my curse. And Graham Hancock, who resurrected this hoary genre in 1995 with his *Fingerprints of the Gods*, goes on to conquer TV too.

Hancock's mystic travelogue, *Heaven's Mirror: quest for the lost civilisation*, will begin on Channel 4 on Monday, the book of the series comes from Michael Joseph (£20). This rebash of his doctrine argues that the sacred sites of ancient Egypt, Cambodia, Mesoamerica and the Pacific form part of the "vast apparatus of an archaic spiritual system", swept away as the Ice Age closed. So far, so very familiar. My case rests, as well: first, that

A WEEK IN BOOKS



BOYD TONKIN

Should you believe everything you read in history books? Let the buyer beware

the rare slots such beguiling fancies hog in publishing (and now TV) schedules will drive out more solid work. Second, these maestros of "alternative" scholarship often fail to engage with their expert critics. Thus *Heaven's Mirror* recycles the standard Hancock line about the so-called "rain erosion" of the Great Sphinx being evidence of its vast antiquity. But the

serious Egyptology journals have left this hypothesis in tatters. Readers and viewers will hear nothing about that.

As for publishers, they now seem loath to take the rap for any doubtful claims in non-fiction works. Instead, they tend to tough it out. Last year, Little, Brown issued the historian David Selbourne's edition of a vivid, late 13th-century Italian manuscript by one "Jacob D'Ancona". *The City of Light* described in rich, racy detail a Jewish merchant's voyage to China. Travel-writers loved it; but many Sinologists - who had no access to the manuscript - spotted several apparent anachronisms and doubted its authenticity. A couple even labelled it as "fiction".

Now *The City of Light* appears in Abacus paperback (£9.99). Selbourne has added an Afterword that scorns the "academic incredulity" of his critics and enlists support from an eminent Chinese historian. I asked one leading sceptic, Professor T H Barrett of the School of Oriental and African Studies in London University, if this self-defence persuaded him. He replies that "a catena of

improbabilities" remain. "But what most upsets me," Barrett adds, "is the way the publishers, while raking in the money, have not seen fit to arrange any research assistance for Selbourne, whose lack of knowledge of the Chinese sources on the period leaves him literally helpless. Substantial doubts remain, which he is in no position to dispel, while a specialist researcher just might turn up the one thing which would vindicate him". Barrett is annoyed by Selbourne's assumption "that one European manuscript of doubtful provenance can negate a picture of 13th-century China built up from a large number of Chinese sources. But that aside, he comes across to me very much as a victim...who has made money for others, and yet has been abandoned to his fate at the hands of ravening academics in return".

Authors have cases to make and causes to fight. Fair enough. Surely the buck should stop with the publishers that fund them? Now, it seems, only the other sort of bucks ever stop there.

Who Voted for Hitler?

Find out in the latest issue of the new-look *History Today*, the magazine that brings history to life. Plus, a major new series on the Cold War, Dirk Bennett describes the crowded religious calendar of pagan Rome, Kenneth O Morgan on the historical roots of New Labour, and an interview with David Cannadine.

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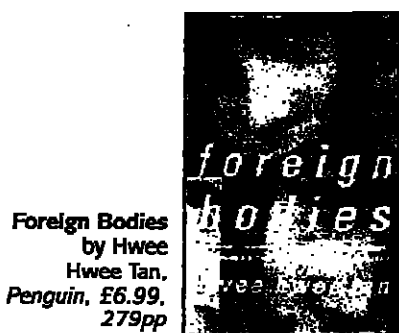
PAPERBACKS

BY EMMA HAGESTADT AND CHRISTOPHER HIRST



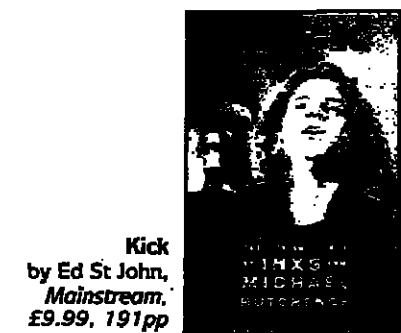
Keats
by Andrew Motion
Faber, £14.99,
636pp

Just as Richard Holmes did for Shelley in *The Pursuit*, Motion rubbishes the conventional image of an isolated rhapsodist. Setting the poet firmly in historical context, this epic, fast-moving portrait reveals a "robust Keats". Motion notes that Endymion ("A thing of beauty is a joy for ever..."), far from being an expression of aesthetic escapism, was inspired by Leigh Hunt's radical journalism. But the most powerful argument for Motion's reassessment is to be found in Keats's ferocious energy. The poet's unbearable final days tainted our view of his entire life. One critic maintained that his death was "accelerated by his discarding of the neckcloth, a practice of the Cockney poets".



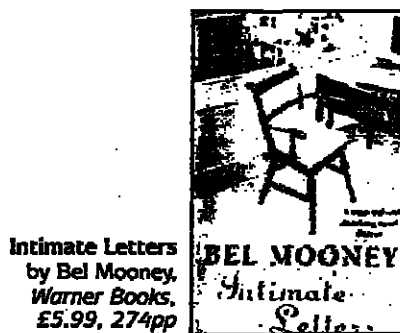
Foreign Bodies
by Hwee Tan
Penguin, £6.99,
279pp

Singapore-born, British educated Hwee Tan's intriguing first novel is an unexpected treat. As good a writer as Timothy Mo when it comes to descriptions of cross-cultural chasms, this young writer (an enviable 24) tells the story of Andy, an English boy arrested in Singapore for heading a football gambling syndicate, Mei Mei (his girlfriend/lawyer), and Eugene (his university drinking buddy). As they wrestle with the Singapore authorities, all three are forced to confront what they have made of their lives so far. A shared heritage of Michael Landon movies, George Michael lyrics and Peking Duck suppers keep this trio of "twenty-nothings" on track.



Kick
by Ed St John
Mainstream,
£9.99, 191pp

Though "fond of auto-eroticism", the death of Michael Hutchence was not "a kinky sex act gone wrong" according to this literate but plodding account of INXS: "He had spent 37 years keeping his loneliness, self-doubt and insecurity at bay". St John hints that it might have been different if Hutchence had settled for Kylie Minogue ("an intriguing choice for a girlfriend") rather than Paula Yates ("a very poor choice of lover"). While brutally honest about the latter days of INXS ("alarming lack of musical direction and increasing irrelevance"), the book offers few insights about Hutchence, though we learn that this master of excess was "extremely careful with his money".



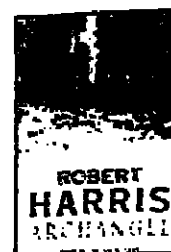
Intimate Letters
by Bel Mooney
Warner Books,
£5.99, 274pp

Critics complain about a surfeit of twenty-something "singletons" novels on the market, but there are just as many dreary tales of middle-aged marital breakdown. Bel Mooney's latest is not untypical. Garden designer Rosa McKee is devastated when her husband forgets their 22nd wedding anniversary. Even more devastated when he drops down dead the next day from a heart-attack. And poleaxed when she discovers letters to a mysterious mistress on his home computer. But in the cold light of day a new Rosa begins to blossom: sexy confident and with a hitherto unsuspected talent for watercolour painting. A thoroughly entertaining read.



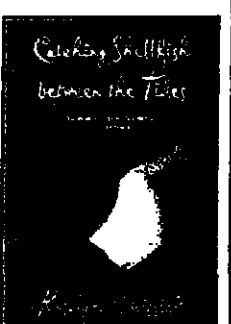
Rat Pack Confidential
by Shawn Levy
Fourth Estate,
£12, 344pp

So that's where Tarantino got his iconic *Reservoir Dogs* image: Frank, Dino, Sammy, Peter Lawford and Joey Bishop ("the mouse in the Rat Pack"), in ties and dark suits, stalking outside the Sands Hotel in Las Vegas. But behind the snappy image and hip repartee, now imitated by a new generation of wannabe swingers, Sinatra's toadying retinue was mired in sleaze and violence. Levy's lapel-grabbing entertainment is told in a style so staccato that at times it breaks down into a series of quotes. "Dino was a good sex man, but his big interest was golf", says a club owner. It could be a script for a Scorsese epic, were he not already engaged on a bio-pic of Dean Martin.

SPOKEN WORD
CHRISTINA HARDYMENT

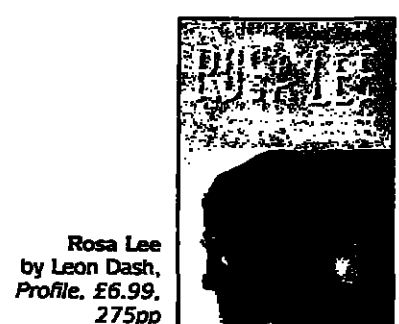
Archangel
by Robert Harris
Random House, 6hrs, £11.99

Since the spies came in from the cold, stories featuring KGB agents and Russian skulduggery have felt distinctly passé, and it was an effort to start listening to Robert Harris's *Archangel*. But Harris is such a master of both construction and suspense that it wasn't long before I became completely engrossed in this strange story. British historian Fluke Kelso finds himself with the scoop of a lifetime when an ex-bodyguard of Stalin turns up at a Moscow conference to criticise his version of Russian history. A hair-raising hunt for a mysterious notebook stolen from Stalin's safe just after his death ensues; what happens when its secret is revealed elicits a sobering comment on the Russia of today.



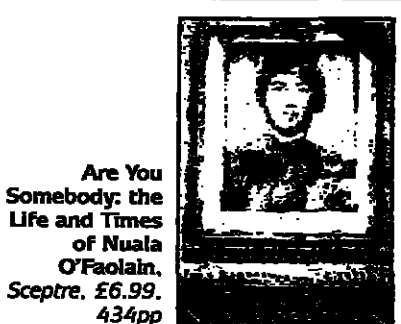
Catching Shellfish Between the Tides
by Rosalyn Chissick
Sceptre, £6.99,
165pp

Rosalyn Chissick's first novel is like stepping into Habitat - lots of watermelon pinks, astrological suns and scented candles, with the additional feeling that none of the brightly painted furniture will stay the course. Set on a remote Greek island, the novel tells the story of Magda, a pregnant 20-year-old who floats from man to man, and ends up drowning her new-born in a bedroom basin. Some wonderfully sensuous descriptions of Attic mountain tops and wine-dark seas, Magda's history is told through a series of memories and dreams. Wiltshire's answer to Sagan; teenage melancholics will lap up Chissick's suicidal sex and "lipstick-red" sunsets.



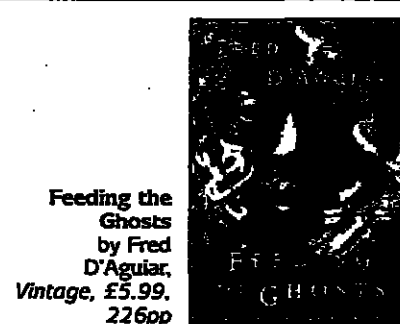
Rosa Lee
by Leon Dash
Profile, £6.99,
275pp

This devastating narrative of poverty in present-day America won a Pulitzer Prize for the author, formerly a *Washington Post* reporter. Dash untenses the story of Rosa Lee, a 52-year-old grandmother, also an HIV-positive drug dealer. At the start of the book in 1988, we see her hawking "Maserati", a local brand of heroin. By the end, six years later, her daughter is jailed for involvement in murder and her son dies from AIDS. In an epilogue, Dash reports the death of Rosa herself, adding simply: "I liked her and, now, I miss her." He warns that "without major intervention", her descendants are "more likely to make the same bad choices".



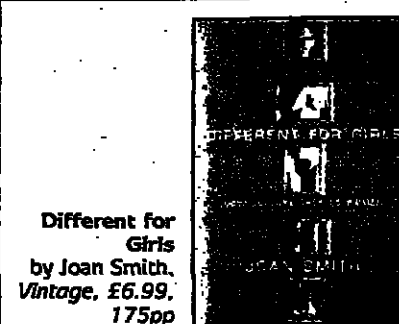
Are You Somebody: the Life and Times of Nuala O'Faolain
Sceptre, £6.99,
434pp

Newspaper columnist Nuala O'Faolain was put off writing her memoirs for fear of being thought too big for her boots. But in her fifties, and fed up with "furtiveness", she bit the bullet and wrote. Her book, a seductive mix of frank confessionals (she drank too much, slept with married men and lived with a woman), and humility (she once made a film of the Shankill Road without understanding the first thing about Irish politics), shot to the top of the bestseller lists. One of nine children, the daughter of an alcoholic mother and a feckless father, her teenage years read like an Edna O'Brien novel. Also included is a selection of her journalism.



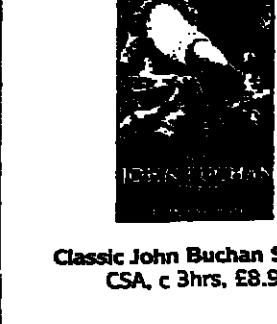
Feeding the Ghosts
by Fred D'Aguiar
Vintage, £5.99,
226pp

In beautiful, luminous prose, D'Aguiar tells a terrible tale. While crossing the Middle Passage, Captain Cunningham, the master of the slave ship *Zong*, ditches 132 of his sickly human cargo in the Atlantic because they will merit a greater insurance payment as "goods lost at sea" than when auctioned. However, this crime is recorded by a chance survivor, a female slave called Mintah who happens to be literate. Her journal is used by insurers in an unsuccessful bid to prosecute Cunningham. Though free in Jamaica, Mintah's mind is full of ghosts from the *Zong* and she immolates herself. But her story remains to do its work: "The past is laid to rest when it is told."



Different for Girls
by Joan Smith
Vintage, £6.99,
175pp

A cleverer version of Camille Paglia, novelist and journalist Joan Smith makes feminism both intellectually gritty and emotionally sound. In a collection of essays covering divorce, single mothers, fashion and the media's preoccupation with "suicidal blondes", Smith explores Dorothy Sayers's line that though men and women are not alike, they are "more like men than anything else in the world". Still included in the book, in its unrevised state, is the author's essay on Princess Diana - a piece published four days before Diana's death which argued that the only logical ending for this self-styled "donna abbandonata" was death in the final act.



Classic John Buchan Stories
CSA, 3 hrs, £8.99

If you thought John Buchan was just a writer of tweedy Scottish "shockers", as he called his first Hannay story, *The Thirty-Nine Steps*, you've been missing all manner of delights. *Classic John Buchan Stories* is the perfect introduction to his wider canon, giving the flavour of his historical novels as well as his political tales and his more subtle stories of human frailties. There couldn't have been a better choice of voice than the mellowing masculine tones of Iain Cuthbertson. A Scot by birth, he is adept at both the lazy accents of the laird and the broader lilt of the men of the people. But he can also do the clipped, upper-class English of the 1920s to perfection.

ERRATA BY FELIX BENNETT

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BEST-SELLERS

No surprises in the entry of Chris Patten in the history and current affairs and non-fiction lists. His much travelled account of the handover of Hong Kong East and West was published last week and, ably publicised by Rupert Murdoch, is selling extremely well. But not as well as *Addicted* by Arsenal

captain, Tony Adams, which has gone straight to number one in the non-fiction list. Sub-titled *his honest and open autobiography*, Adams with co-author Ian Ridley writes frankly about his passion for alcohol, which led him to consider giving up football, his second addiction.

Meanwhile, a glance at the fiction lists proves that only a wholesome saga, Maevie Binchy-style, has the clout to knock Irvine Welsh off his sordid perch.

Compiled by Bookwatch from sales over seven days ending 16 September.
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ORIGINAL FICTION

TITLE	AUTHOR/PUBLISHER	WEEKLY SALES	PRICE
1 (1) Tara Road	Maevie Binchy (Orion)	8,906	£16.99
2 (3) Filth	Irvine Welsh (Cape)	6,632	£9.99
3 (4) Rainbow Six	Tom Clancy (M Joseph)	6,063	£16.99
4 (2) Field of Thirteen	Dick Francis (M Joseph)	5,713	£16.99
5 (5) Jemima J	Jane Green (Penguin)	5,449	£5.99
6 (7) Love Song	Charlotte Bingham (Bantam)	4,752	£5.99
7 (6) Charlotte Gray	Sebastian Faulks (Hutchinson)	4,525	£16.99
8 (10) The Tesseract	Alex Garland (Viking)	4,203	£9.99
9 (8) Bag of Bones	Stephen King (Hodder)	3,551	£16.99
10 (-) Hitched	Zoe Barnes (Platkus)	2,054	£5.99

ORIGINAL NON-FICTION

TITLE	AUTHOR/PUBLISHER	WEEKLY SALES	PRICE
1 (-) Addicted	Tony Adams (CollinsWillow)	5,730	£17.99
2 (1) The Little Book of Calm	Paul Wilson (Penguin)	4,530	£1.99
3 (4) The Gun'or	Lenny McLean (Blake)	4,259	£16.99
4 (3) Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus	John Gray (Thorsons)	3,601	£9.99
5 (4) My 1998 World Cup Story	Glenn Hoddle (Deutsch)	2,740	£17.99
6 (-) East and West	Chris Patten (Macmillan)	2,376	£22.50
7 (7) The Little Book of Stress	Rohan Candappa (Ebury)	2,142	£1.99
8 (6) Under the Tuscan Sun	Frances Mayes (Bantam)	1,546	£5.99
9 (-) 60 Ways to Feel Amazing	Linda Field (Element)	1,528	£1.99
10 (9) The Little Book of Dreams	Joan Hanger (Penguin)	1,322	£1.99

HISTORY AND CURRENT AFFAIRS

TITLE	AUTHOR/PUBLISHER	WEEKLY SALES	PRICE
1 Longitude	Dava Sobel (4th Estate)	2,854	£5.99
2 East and West	Chris Patten (Macmillan)	2,376	£22.50
3 Made in America	Bill Bryson (Minerva)	1,329	£6.99
4 The Calendar	David Ewing Duncan (4th Estate)	1,052	£12.99
5 The Last Governor	Jonathan Dimbleby (Warner)	638	£9.99
6 In the Footsteps of Alexander the Great	Michael Wood (BBC)	584	£17.99
7 Stalingrad	Antony Beevor (Viking)	400	£25
8 News of a Kidnapping	Gabriel Garcia Marquez (Penguin)	301	£6.99
9 The Chancellors	Roy Jenkins (Macmillan)	291	£25
10 Cold War	Jeremy Isaacs (Bantam Press)	201	£22

The road out
of Paradise

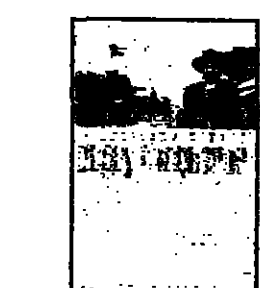
Rachel Halliburton enjoys an epic
voyage back to Africa

DUPPY CONQUEROR presents a giant's eye view of the exiled African psyche. An ambitious and compelling novel, it takes vast strides through the mystic paradise of Jamaica in the Thirties, the racially fraught underworlds of postwar Liverpool and London, and the defunct utopianism of African repatriation plans in the Sixties.

This potent analysis of the legacy left by slavery asks questions about the survival of African identity through a story that ranges from voodoo curses to gambling contests, from love stories to political polemic. Ferdinand Dennis examines how the past has marked Africans, both as the grounds for their oppression and the inspiration for their dreams.

Although the book has epic ambitions, it does not feel an epic read. Dennis drives it along through a narrative bubbling with eccentric characters and poetic descriptions. And he chooses an unassuming character to bear the weight of his investigations into 20th-century Africanism.

Marshall Sarjeant is exiled from Paradise, Jamaica, in order to conquer the curse that has plagued his family since the 19th century. The curse, which manifests itself in deformities, originates when Marshall's ancestor - the plantation owner Neal Sarjeant - enrages his witchlike, childless wife, Sybil, by making his slave Nana pregnant. Sybil buries his fortune with an evil spirit before returning to commit suicide by sending the house up in flames. On this pyre, she curses Neal and all his "nigger children".



Duppy Conqueror
by Ferdinand Dennis
Fleming, £16.99, 346pp

Marshall Sarjeant emerges as a novel about languages of power and their subtext of corruption. Marshall, the stoic hero, is forced to negotiate a careful path through the mysticism, revolutionary polemics and conflicting iconographies that have fought for control of African identity. Dennis's talent lies in fusing these languages by making seemingly minor incidents climax in events of wide importance. An African pulling a flick-knife on his racist landlord prefigures the mass activism of the Pan-Africanist movement; and a creation myth about the love of a fish for a bird illustrates the difficulties of fighting for freedom.

This is a novel packed to the brim with layers of symbolism, individual and cultural memories, and fascinating historical stories. Reading it once just won't be enough.

How to put up a good front

What are the best flowers and shrubs to make the most of that awkward space outside the house? Ursula Buchan advises

Over the past 30 years, the look of our towns and large villages has been transformed by the widespread rejection of traditional street patterns, in favour of the many-branched cul-de-sacs of private housing estates. This has had social and architectural implications but what interests me is the challenge it has presented to house-holders to design the public space in front of their houses.

It may seem hard, initially, to know how to lay out such a front garden. The area is never extensive and can often be measured in only a few square feet, instead of being rectangular or square, as is usual for the traditional street front garden, it can sometimes be L-shaped or even partly curved. In the case of semi-detached houses, the garden will probably be shared, without intervening hedge, with 'next door'.

If you live on a modern estate, you cannot fail to have noticed that your neighbours plant this space in many different ways. For many, the obvious solution seems to be putting it all down to grass, while others prefer to plant a row of dwarf conifers or an impenetrable shrubbery, a patch of hybrid tea roses or even a tiny wild-flower meadow. No doubt, it has struck you that some solutions are more successful than others.

The space outside your house is important to you and to your neighbours who look out on it. It can be highly indicative of your personality, which may or may not be an uncomfortable thought. It is what you pass as you dash out of the house in the morning, and it is there when you park the car at night; you want it to look at least presentable, and preferably colourful and welcoming. Yet wind-borne litter clings to its plants, children ride their bikes over it, the soil is often thin and even rubble, there is a damp-proof course in the house wall that you must not cover and there are ground-floor windows that you won't want to shade.

You have a challenge on your hands, but not an insurmountable one. After all, there are some points in this space's favour: it is likely to be protected by the surrounding houses from high winds and bad frosts; winter temperatures will be higher than in gardens in open countryside; even if the space is not actually in full sunshine, at least it won't be shaded too closely by high buildings and other people's hedges and trees. And, if you are on good terms with your next-door neighbour, you can consider designing the space together.

What is required are plants that will give you some colour and interest throughout the year. At least a proportion should be fragrant, for you need something to gladden your heart at the end of the working day. As the area is probably flat, you will need a few taller, conical



Standard roses, laburnum and 'snakebark' maples, which can be grown as a multi-stemmed shrub rather than a tree, are a good choice for the front garden

Garden Picture Library

shapes and ground-huggers. The plants do not need to be bone-hardy, but they should be able to exist in poor, free-draining soil. They must be short and should not have a dense habit. All should be sturdy enough to discourage bike riders and should be slow-growing and never invasive. They also should have shallow, non-questing roots, unlikely to block drains.

A lawn is often a waste of time. Mowing will mean carting the lawn-mower from the shed in the back garden, which will be irritating; discarded sweetie papers will show up on the green sward; and the area is likely to be too small for a lawn to look anything but makeshift and dull. It is an understandable reaction

to plant such an area with dwarf conifers. They have shallow, fibrous, unthreatening roots, are short in stature, and are evergreen, so that there is all-the-year-round colour. The problem is that a number of dwarf conifers don't stay dwarf and many look the same all year round. The colour of the foliage changes so subtly that you may not notice it; you will have little sense of the changing seasons. I am not ruling out dwarf conifers, in fact they have a place here, but only if leavened with a good sprinkling of deciduous plants and flowering evergreens.

Depending on the size of the plot, my choice would include: a small deciduous tree with an airy branch system, such as one of the

'snakebark' maples which, if necessary, can be grown as a multi-stemmed shrub rather than a tree; well-mannered deciduous shrubs, with scented flowers, fruit or good autumn colour, such as *Viburnum x juddii*; woody sub-shrubs with evergreen or semi-evergreen leaves, that thrive in a poor soil in full sun, and are highly fragrant; evergreen ground cover plants; and plenty of flowering bulbs to add colour in spring. If the house has a porch, I would pick a scented pillar rose, to entwine with a late-flowering climber, as not being too vigorous for this situation. The lists in the box (opposite) are just a small selection of the many plants which are suitable for such a space.

PLANTS FOR THE FRONT GARDEN

Trees: *Acer capillipes*, *A. davidii*; *Betula pendula* 'Laciniata' (syn 'Dalecarlica'); *Malus tschonoskii*, *M. coronaria* 'Charlottae'.
Low growing evergreen shrubs and sub-shrubs: *Artemisia stelleriana* 'Boughton Silver'; *Ceanothus thyrsiflorus* 'Repens'; *Chamaecyparis lawsoniana* 'Minima Glauca'; *Daphne* *retusa*, *D. tangutica*; *Euonymus fortunei* varieties eg 'Silver Queen' and 'Coloratus', which

also will slowly climb a wall; *Hebe albicans*, *H. x franciscana* 'Blue Gem', 'Pewter Dome', *H. pimeleoides* 'Quicksilver'; *Juniperus horizontalis* 'Wiltonii'; *J. communis* 'Compressa'; *Lavandula* 'Lodoni Blue' (makes an excellent low hedge on either side of a curved or straight path); *L. spica* 'Hidcote'; *L. stoechas* (in a sheltered sunny spot); *Santolina chamaecyparissus* 'Nana'; *Sarcococca humilis* (intensely

fragrant flowers in winter).
Evergreen perennials: *Bergenia* 'Sunningdale' (autumn colour; winter flowers); *Dianthus* (Modern garden pinks) (summer-flowering; scented); *Grasses* eg *Helictotrichon*, *Festuca*.
Pillar roses: 'Golden Showers'; 'Leaping Salmon'; 'Highfield'; 'Celine Forestier'; Clematis: 'Hagley Hybrid'; 'Mme Edouard Andre'; 'Victoria'.

WEEKEND WORK



URSULA BUCHAN

PICK OUTDOOR tomatoes and put green ones on to the greenhouse bench to ripen. Remove tomatoes and their roots from greenhouse borders or growing bags, add some new multipurpose compost and then sow winter-hardy lettuce.

Spike the lawn with a garden fork or hired spiker to aerate the roots after the pounding it gets from a summer of mowing. Feed the lawn with a proprietary autumn lawn fertiliser by the end of the month. If you are making a lawn, this is the last moment for turfing or sowing seed before the spring.



This weekend, pick outdoor tomatoes

Make sure all hedges are clipped before the colder weather comes. Pick mid-season apples, such as 'James Grieve', 'Blenheim Orange', 'Arthur Turner', 'Ellison's Orange' and 'Egremont Russet'. Store only those that are undamaged by birds or insects and show no signs of brown rot. Pick up windfalls to prevent the spread of diseases.

CUTTINGS

NEWS FROM THE GARDENER'S WORLD

NORTHERNERS WILL be pleased to know that there are some compensations for a wet season, and one of these is a good growth of mushrooms and toadstools. On Sunday, 11 October, Dr Gordon

Beakes, a mycologist from the University of Newcastle will be conducting a "fungi foray" in the grounds and park of Belsay Hall, 14 miles north-west of Newcastle in Northumberland. The tour

begins at 10.30am and lasts two hours. Tickets are limited, and booking is essential, by calling 01661 881636. The cost is £6, £3 for members of English Heritage. URSULA BUCHAN

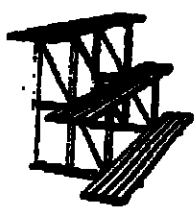
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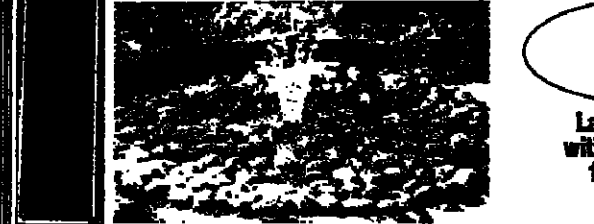
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TRADITIONALLY, TOMORROW in the Scottish Highlands is *Loth na Damhair*, the Day of the Roaring, when red-deer stags break out of their all-male groups and begin wandering in search of hinds at the start of the annual rut. The break-out is often heralded by wild behaviour: the stags charge about in huge groups, racing this way and that before splitting off individually.

The rut creates fierce excitement among the deer. A master stag will seek to control a harem of anything up to 30 hinds and calves. To increase his personal attraction, he urinates in peaty wallows, then rolls in them until black from head to foot. He issues challenges to contenders by means of frequent roars – like the bellowing of bulls – and parades ceaselessly back and forth, chivvying his ladies and warding off marauders. Because of all this activity, and because they stop eating for the duration, stags can lose a third of their body weight in a month.

If a rival persists in coming close, there is likely to be a fight. The two combatants often walk side by side for a few yards in a ritual advance, then suddenly wheel inwards and lock antlers with a crash. Deaths are rare, but can occur if the time of an antler penetrates the ribcage. More often, the defeated stag wanders off in search of easier conquests.

DUFF HART-DAVIS

Ian Waldie

Heading for home with my dog at the end of our morning walk, I turned off the lane on to a track that cuts diagonally down through the wood. Fifty yards into the trees stood a battered red car. Any vehicle out of place in the country at once arouses suspicion, and immediately I thought, "Possibly a courting couple—but not likely at this time of day: more probably a stolen car, or someone committing suicide".

**DUFF
HART-DAVIS**

before lunch I drove back up the hill. The vehicle was still there. The driver had not moved an inch. When I banged on the window, he stirred slightly but didn't open his eyes. He had locked both doors, but luckily not the tailgate.

I opened that, scrambled over the rear seat, released the front door catches, shook him and shouted, "Hey! What's up with you?" All he could do was groan.

The inside of the car was an ab-

solute tip—empty cigarette packets, filthy clothes, paper bags, plastic bottles. Between the front seats was a mass of empty prescription bottles and silver-foil trays that had held pharmaceutical tablets. On the passenger's seat lay two suicide notes, scribbled in pencil on opened-out drug packets. One was to his parents, one to his best friend.

"Listen," I said, shaking him again. "I'm getting help. Hang on." I sped downhill, dialed 999, called for an ambulance and hurried back to the site, afraid the casualty might already have died. In fact he was exactly the same: yellowish-white in the face, immobile.

The ambulance arrived with commendable speed. Within a couple of minutes of reaching the scene the two paramedics had him on board breathing oxygen, and as soon as various tests had reassured them that his condition was stable, they whisked him away to hospital.

Later that day his sister and her husband drove out from the nearby town, where he had been living with his parents, to recover his car. Their story was depressingly predictable:

that he'd had financial worries, had become increasingly reclusive, and had left other suicide notes in his room at home. Whether the overdose had inflicted permanent physical damage, it was too early to say.

Alas, this minor tragedy is only one among hundreds that reveal the stress of rural life today.

The fellow I rescued was not a farmer, although he had worked on farms; but he was self-employed, a loner, and had no one in whom he felt able to confide.

Such are the pressures on agricultural workers that the suicide rate among farmers is one of the highest in any profession – and nobody knows more about this melancholy subject than Malcolm Whitaker, a semi-retired farmer living near Cirencester. In the early Seventies he acted as a Samaritan, and then, as Gloucestershire chairman of the National Farmers' Union, gained further insight into the problems besetting country people.

His response, in 1991, was to form Gloucestershire Farming Friends, an informal group whose telephone numbers are published in

the agricultural press, and who are prepared to talk to anyone in trouble. Now, through the Rural Stress Information Network, a charity launched in 1996, the scheme has spread into 12 counties, and vital information is being gathered.

Mr Whitaker's own telephone manner is wonderfully buoyant and reassuring, as is his accent - Gloucestershire still overlaid with his native Lancashire, whence his family migrated in 1936, when he was four. If any vice could rally a faltering spirit, it would be his.

"What's happened," he says, "is that the old farming community has gone. Back in the Fifties there would have been 60 or 65 men working on the land within a mile-and-a-half of where I live. Now there are six. I remember a time when my neighbours, if they finished harvest before we did, would come straight in with their combines and carry on cutting, and we'd do the same for them. Every farm was a little community on its own, surrounded by other similar ones, and if a man was ill, and couldn't milk the cows, there was always someone to help."

Today, because farmers employ so few men, and their wives go off to work, many men are on their own for 14 or 15 hours a day.

Loneliness increases the weight of their burdens – and they have at their disposal many means of ending their lives: heavy machinery, poison, firearms.

Of the 650 farmers who committed suicide between 1982 and 1992, 38 per cent shot themselves. The sad fact is that farmers live in a rural community which understands agriculture less and less, so that they feel unloved and unwanted.

My own experience left me feeling shaken. To start with, I wished I had been more positive and taken action when I first came upon the car. Then I began to wonder whether it would have been more humane just to let the man drift away.

Was it not cruel to drag him back into his tormented world? In any case, it seemed unbearably sad that he should have gone off into the woods to end his life. English forests should be places in which wild creatures, not humans, are born and live and die.

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With the wind beneath my wings

Is it a bird? Is it a kite? No, it's a man and his flying machine.
Eric Kendall goes paragliding

Run run run run run run! I wish that man would stop screaming in my ears. That's better, he seems to be fading, as the ground falls away beneath my feet and I become well and truly airborne... Airborne? "Yikes!" as they say in the cartoons, on overshooting the edge of the cliff.

Though I am here to learn to fly a paraglider, the whole point of the exercise - flying - has not really crossed my mind. After all, day one will probably be lots of safety stuff, classroom briefings and familiarisation with the equipment. Well, you do all of that, it just doesn't take very long.

The very first thing you learn should set the alarm bells ringing: how to land in extremis, when it has all gone wrong. This is far removed from, and far simpler than, oxygen masks descending from the luggage racks while you simultaneously put your head between your knees, remove your high heels and decipher the emergency exit map on the card stored in the seatback in front of you.

It is the parachute roll, and who better than Andy, formerly of 2 Para, to teach us. Though the name suggests a rough, tough survival manoeuvre, the roll actually consists of a little knees-bend, twist your hips number with arms, demurely wrapped across your chest. With four of us rolling in unison, "Forward to the right. Backwards to the left", at any moment I expect Andy to say, "And, two, three, four... pile", in shrill tones, then clap his hands briskly to bring the music to a stop while we all scurry towards him for our next instructions. Instead we get, "listen up" followed by a thorough review of site selection - essentially a consideration of wind (velocity, turbulence, direction) and obstacles, like trees. There's also a reminder that we will be enjoying ourselves.

Ground handling is next. This is your first chance to grapple with your paraglider, to get the harness on and try to control the canopy while you remain on the ground, wind permitting. The emphasis is on checking. Everything. Now do it again.

With the number of lines involved it is a minor miracle that most of the day is not spent disentangling them, like kite strings only much worse. Some of them are used to control the paraglider, the others suspend you,

so either way it is important that they are all tangle-free. The control lines, or brakes, are joined together at the business end by a fabric loop that you pull to steer the paraglider. Pulling the right one slows that side of the canopy so that you turn right, while the left does the opposite. Pulling them both together makes you drop out of the sky and is reserved for the moment you touch down, to take the wind out of your sail. On the ground, if the wind gets up, the control lines are the only thing between you and a high-speed tow-ride across fields and through hedges. It is no joke: whenever your harness is on, so is your helmet.

Despite an apparently straightforward approach, teaching methods are a bit devious. The instructor pretends that you are just going to get the feel of the canopy "inflated" above your head once more, to find out what happens when you pull this string or that, but then shouts at you and before you know it you are running along the ground, then floating through the air.

This is disturbing - not in the, "It's not natural", jumbo jet type of flying phobia (it feels, even first time, like the most natural thing in the world) but because you are the only pilot on board and you don't have the first idea of what you are doing, other than the theory of which control line to pull. There has to be a bit more to it than that. Also, your feet are the undercarriage, and you just saw what happened to the guy who landed in the patch of stinging nettles earlier.

From a distance, paragliders look like parachutes, though modern canopies are actually high-performance wings which fly rather than just drop through the air. Learning to fly usually involves gliding down from hilltops but with experience pilots can exploit various forms of lift, such as that produced by wind travelling up a slope or from thermals.

Paragliders can rise thousands of feet and be flown cross-country over huge distances, while their unique portability - they are carried in a big rucksack - means that climbing a mountain and flying from the top is a real option.

But such thoughts are a far cry from your very first moments of flight. You don't go insanely high in the air, though you are definitely aloft. It feels beautifully controlled - the paraglider is flying itself - and



Vertigo is not an issue. For the moment, at least, this really is effortless flight

Penny Kendall

FACT FILE

THE BRITISH Hang-gliding and Paragliding Association (0118-261 1322) provides details of paragliding schools all over the country. It doesn't take long to learn the basics, though fickle British weather slows progress. Schools with easy access to sites suitable for various wind conditions are a good bet; Green Dragons (01883 652666) on the north Downs is one of

the closest to London. Learning to fly in the Alps, Spain and Portugal is a good option thanks to normally stable weather conditions. However, you will need to follow up a foreign course with UK certification in order to be able to fly back at home.

Like hang-gliding, the sport of paragliding developed a reputation for accidents, in part

owing to its rapid and experimental development. Things have improved, so that well taught pilots flying the right kind of wings enjoy relative safety.

A great deal still depends on cautious judgement of weather conditions, as paragliding remains a very basic form of flying, regardless of technological developments.



SIMON CALDER

Jails give an insight into parts of society more usually hidden

BRIXTON PRISON for £50 a night? Ridiculous. In Inverness you get to stay for free.

This week's controversy about plans by the governor of the south London jail to take paying guests highlights the fact that, for better or worse, prisons comprise a significant part of the traveller's experience. You could, like a former editor of *The Independent*, find your stay in Thailand encumbered by spells at His Majesty's pleasure. I have been enjoined to spend time in the cells by constabularies as various as those in Transylvania, Cuba and Stevenage.

But the traveller who manages not to offend local sensibilities on matters such as photography and hitch-hiking

can derive considerable advantage from a brief and voluntary stay in prison.

The dank old jail close to the Blue Mosque in Istanbul has been beautifully rehabilitated as a Four Seasons hotel, while the youth hostel in the Canadian capital Ottawa is an unconverted prison, complete with staff who struck me more as wardens than wardens.

As tourist attractions, too, prisons give an insight into the parts of society that are more usually hidden; the chilling but intriguing Armagh jail, which opened to the public earlier this year, is an excellent example.

Should you wish to treat prisons as more than mere tourist attractions, then you can visit British people held in foreign jails; contact Prisoners Abroad (0171-833 3487) to find out who may be in need of human contact and kindness.

And Inverness? Apparently this summer has not been entirely bed for Scottish tourism. Three weeks ago, a couple of Spanish tourists were unable to find anywhere to stay in the highland capital, and were duly put up at the local nick.

RYAN VER BERKMOES is a name to remember - not least for the anagrammatical possibilities. Mr Ver Berkmoes also happens to be an engaging writer. At a conference earlier this year, he told me about his

work on the new Lonely Planet guide to Chicago. He and I agree wholeheartedly that, as he writes in the introduction to his book, "Chicago should be the first stop on any visitor's itinerary to the US".

Where we part company is over his extraordinary repertoire of acknowledgements, which occupy 70 lines that could arguably be better spent on recommending a few extra

cafés or little-known museums. The thanks begin with "My wife, Sara Marley, an incomparable reader who gave support, love, advice" and end with the band 10,000 Maniacs, "whose album *Our Time in Eden* became the ritualistic start of each day's writing session". In between, a host of helpers whose numbers approach that of the entire population of Chicago receive plaudits.

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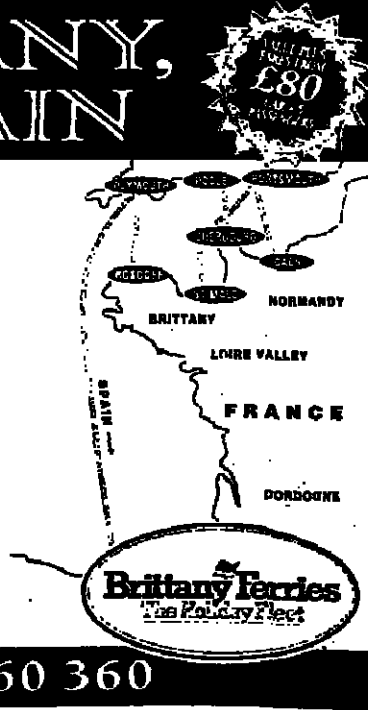
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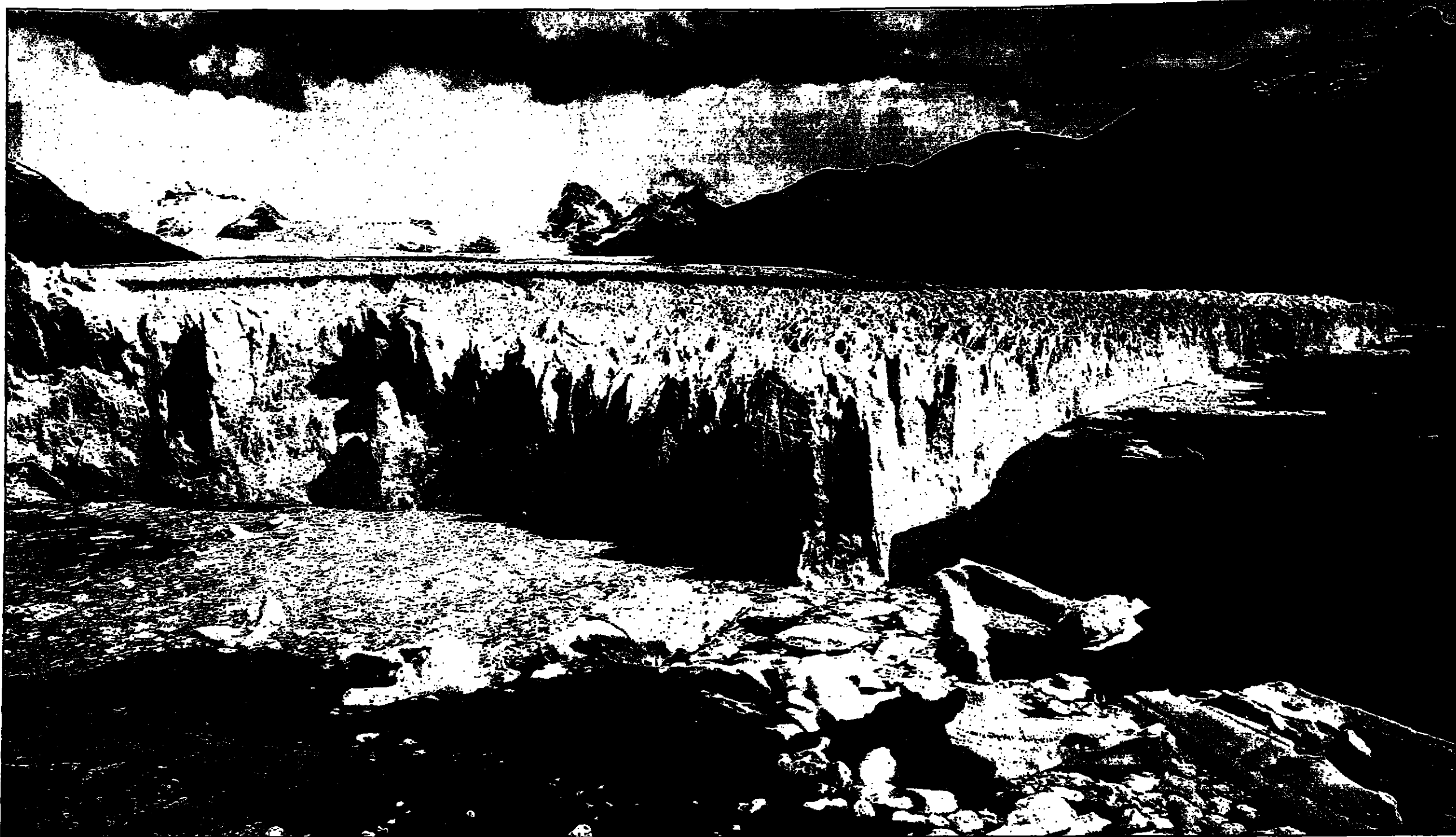
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The Perito Moreno glacier in Patagonia, Argentina, where huge chunks of ice the size of towerblocks break off with a deafening roar

Derrick Furlong/RHPL

I love the sound of breaking ice

The Perito Moreno glacier in Patagonia is more than a wall of frozen water – it is a living, roaring beast. By Alison Criado-Perez

You could fit the sprawl of the city of Buenos Aires on to the 90-odd square miles of the Perito Moreno glacier. Its scale is the first thing that surprised me, as it filled the horizon between the distant peaks like an advancing battalion. The next was the colour – a shimmering zircon of "ice blue". This vast river of frozen pinnacles and wafer-thin plates of ice inches its way down from the Continental ice-cap for more than 18 miles between the steep mountains of the pre-cordillera of the Andes, in the far south of Patagonia. Perched on the edge of the lake from whose flat surface the sheer wall of the jagged glacial mass rises, my hotel bedroom afforded me a stunning view of it on my first morning.

The night before had been a long one. A drive from east to west across Patagonia had taken up most of it. Merely getting to the glacier prepared you a bit for its magic. Patagonia is another world.

Eduardo the taxi-driver and I crossed the plains for hours on end. He drove, I slept. And whenever I woke, the view from the car window was the same: a long, straight ribbon of road stretching endlessly into the distance across the windswept plateau. It was mesmerising driving and Eduardo needed a break, so he got out for a smoke. I walked outside in the cold air. Hanging over me, a vast black dome reached from horizon to horizon, as resplendent with stars as the road was empty of cars.

Driving on through this immense, barren land, nothing dimmed the dazzling display of unfamiliar constellations. Unfamiliar, too, as we neared El Calafate, were the strange shapes of the trees, lit up by the lights of the car and stretching away on either

side of the road in mysterious woods of Tolkien-like country.

The drive had prepared me for surprises, but the first sight of the glacier took my breath away. Was it possible that ordinary mortals could actually walk on it? "Yes, claro," Jaime, the guide, reassured me. "I'll teach you to walk with crampons." I glanced around at the rest of the small group of adventurers gathered at the edge of Lago Argentino that frosty morning. Did they look as if they knew how to cope with crampons?

A motley selection of anoraks, jeans and woolly hats, adorning a variety of shapes and sizes of all ages, reassured me. A few youthful bodies would no doubt have a slight edge on me in the fitness stakes, but I could always puff along at the rear.

The wind tore at our thick clothing and whipped up the milky aquamarine water of the lake as we

crossed in a small boat to the rim of the glacier. Above its roar, Jaime explained the process that makes the Perito Moreno glacier unique. The tip of the glacier slowly grows until it reaches the far shore. As it advances... "How quickly?" I asked. "Oh, about one and a half metres every day. Till it forms a dam in this narrow channel." He pointed to it on a map. "As the level of the water rises, so the pressure also rises. Then..."

The following apocalyptic explosion draws people from all over the world to watch monoliths of ice, many the size of a block of flats, break off the glacier with a thunderous roar. The last break-up was in 1988; weren't we due for another?

It seemed likely to happen that very hour, as gunshot explosions of cracking ice broke the silence. The only other sound was the crunch of our plodding footsteps on the crispy snow that covered the glacier. Jaime

had duly explained the secrets of walking with crampons. "Keep your knees bent, feet quite wide apart, back straight. It will feel strange in the beginning."

It did, but it worked. Inching my heavy-footed way along ridges, through caves of blue ice and round strange-shaped pinnacles, worn over centuries by wind and weather, I came heart-stoppingly close to crevasses. What if I fell into one of those narrow, bottomless slits of ice? "Oh, we have all the equipment. We also have a Bible."

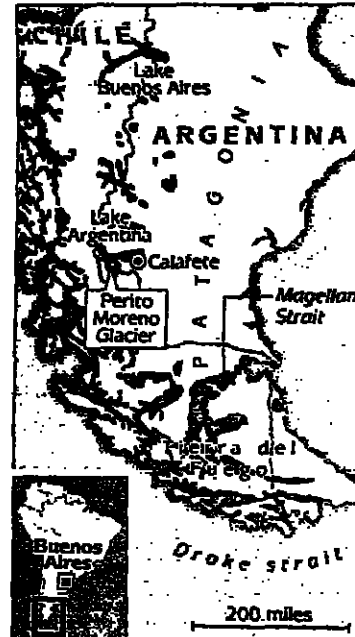
The Bible wasn't needed; and fear and exercise had given me a good appetite for lunch. Crampons off, we strolled beside the lake under the midday sun. We ate our picnic sitting on rocks that one day will again be covered by the waters of the lake.

"You should see the glacier from the Magellan peninsula," said Jaime. "You get a better idea of its size from

there." So in the early evening I walked through the sub-antarctic woods to reach the wooden catwalk that fronts the two-mile long head-wall across a narrow channel. Jaime was right. Rising to a height of 180 ft above the level of the lake, the glacier was a moving, living entity; a monster that groaned and creaked as it advanced.

As I faced this frozen colossus, I was suddenly aware that I was watching the face of the earth changing. New contours of the earth were being forged, millimetre by millimetre. In aeons to come, what is now a ferocious leviathan of ice will surely one day be a gentle U-shaped valley alive with wild flowers and the soft lowing of cows.

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Aliens, artists
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Mary Dejevsky
has a close
encounter with
New Mexico

New Mexico car licence plates are unique. They are the only US plates to clarify that the state is in the United States - a necessary precaution, apparently, for the many Americans who do not realise that New Mexico has been part of the Union since 1848 (and a full state since 1912). They are also the only plates whose typically kitschy slogan "land of enchantment" actually under-

sells the destination. New Mexico is a travel paradise. It is like and unlike the rest of the United States in the best possible ways. It has spectacular scenery and endless space, but the driving distances are manageable. It has multiple layers of history and uncommon cultural diversity - American Indian, Hispanic, as well as what is called "Anglo".

There is a respect for the past and a concern for the environment that recalls Europe. There are places to stay both for the impetuous traveller seeking atmosphere and for families wanting the reassurance of a reliable motel chain. There is culinary variety. And there is a Latin sense of style and pleasure that makes for distinctive architecture and welcoming manners. You may linger over a meal, and order wine or beer, including on Sundays, without being treated as a budding alcoholic. You can ski in winter; swim, ride and cycle in summer; and nature-watch all year round - birdlife ranges from eagles in the north to hummingbirds in the south.

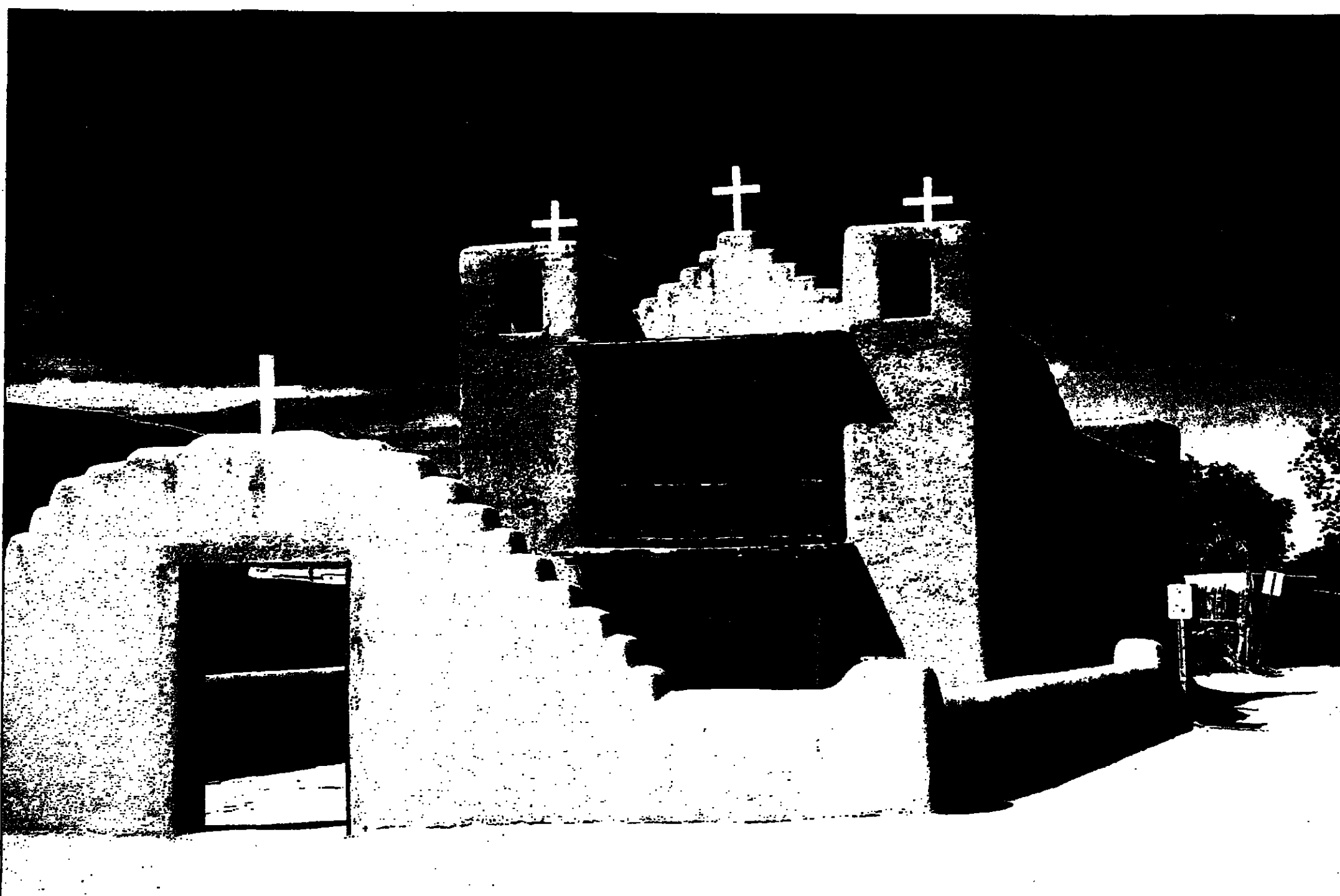
New Mexico is also one of the few states in the American West where you can tour for two weeks (even on spec) or select a couple of centres and branch out from there - and still have plenty left to see next time.

As a northern base, you could choose the city of Santa Fe, where even the Burger King is built adobe-style. But you might be advised to settle for Española (half-an-hour's drive to the north), or Taos (a half-hour further) as considerably cheaper. But for a special occasion, consider a few nights at La Fonda, Santa Fe's classic hacienda-style coaching inn, which has a reputation throughout North America.

Whether you stay or visit (be warned, parking is not easy), Santa Fe is worth two days at least. With its Governor's Palace history museum, art galleries and Indian market, it is a cultural treasure-house and a visual delight.

For devotees of the painter Georgia O'Keeffe, her landscape and house at Abiqui, about 50 miles to the north-west, are an easy and dramatically beautiful drive. With advance booking, you may tour her main house and studio. Back in Santa Fe, however, the year-old museum devoted to O'Keeffe's work is a disappointment, housing much juvenilia and little of her mature painting - a deficiency hinted at in the official description: "expanding".

The town of Taos is less tweezy fashionable now than it was a



Once a fashionable hang-out, Taos has settled back into small-town calm; St Geronimo church, above, is well worth a quick look

Michael J Howell

decade or two ago, having settled back into small-town calm.

The church of St Geronimo is well worth a quick look, and in town you can also find some of the best-quality Indian arts at prices that are not unreasonable. Both here and at the small town of La Mesilla, near Las Cruces in the very south of the state, pre-selection by the galleries may make items more expensive than they would be on the reservation, but they also save you from drowning in the chaotic quantities on offer.

The road from Santa Fe to Taos is lined with reservations, several with their own shops and potteries and many now with round-the-clock casinos - should you fancy your luck. Visit at least one reservation, if only to get a sense of the vast gulf in living standards and perceptions that separates America's first inhabitants from their conquerors.

The Taos pueblo, just north of the town, could be a good place to start. Guidebooks for Americans warn continually not to patronise and not

to gawp. Europeans, more used to cultural difference, may need fewer warnings - but you will sense at once, whether the reservation you select is rich (from its new casino) or poor (because it has shunned gambling), that you are in foreign territory. Another day trip might take in the mountain town of Los Alamos, where the US developed the world's first atomic bomb.

If the associations and the barbed wire and walls surrounding the complex are sinister, the almost

Alpine scenery is breathtaking, and there is a newly opened museum.

For southern New Mexico, you might choose as a base the town of Silver City, a developing tourist centre that is still pleasantly unglamorised. The landscape here is flatter, the climate hotter, and Mexico palpably closer. There is still impressive mountain scenery and cave dwellings in the Gila National Forest, and striking geological formations in the City of Rocks State Park. Close by are naturally occur-

ring hot springs where you may bathe in warm mineral water by starlight. As the name Silver City suggests, this region has been mined for precious metals, and the hot, dusty environs contain a clutch of ghost towns from gold-rush days. From Silver City drive east, through the eerie White Sands missile range where the traffic may be temporarily halted without warning for a launch, you may drive and picnic amid seemingly endless dunes that compose a truly white moon-

scape. Your destination is the city of Roswell - repeatedly named one of the most liveable cities in the US.

Replete with motels and restaurants, it is celebrated the world over for the closest-ever "encounter of the third kind" - the supposed crash-landing of aliens in 1947. The Roswell Incident has spawned two museums, tours to the "landing site", and an industry of "alien" memorabilia.

You might choose to keep central New Mexico for the end of your trip, as Albuquerque is your most likely point of departure. There are worse places to stay than this mushrooming city which, until last year (when it was overtaken by Las Vegas), was the fastest-growing metropolitan area in the US.

Let me now confess: after five trips to New Mexico in 10 years, I am smitten. Of course, you can encounter bad motels and poor restaurants, as elsewhere. And never underestimate the danger of severe weather: from extreme heat in high summer to snow in winter, and storms and flash-floods at any season.

That said, the scale of the state is such that, in extremis, there will be rescuers and, being New Mexicans, they are likely to be kind.

In 1996 - the latest year for which figures are available - 26,000 Britons visited New Mexico. There should be many more.

FACT FILE

When to go

Visit in early spring for the cactus flowering; late spring or early autumn for driving and sightseeing; winter for skiing around the Taos area. At Christmas many Indian reservations have illuminations and elaborate ceremonies with traditional dances, tours can be arranged from Albuquerque or Santa Fe.

Getting there

There are no direct flights from the UK to New Mexico. The usual approach is to fly to Dallas on British Airways (from Gatwick,

0345 222111) or American Airlines (from Gatwick or Manchester, 0345 789789) and then on to Albuquerque. Through discount agents such as Bon Voyage (01703 330332) you can fly on American for £487 return. Other US airlines offer good-value connections through alternative gateways.

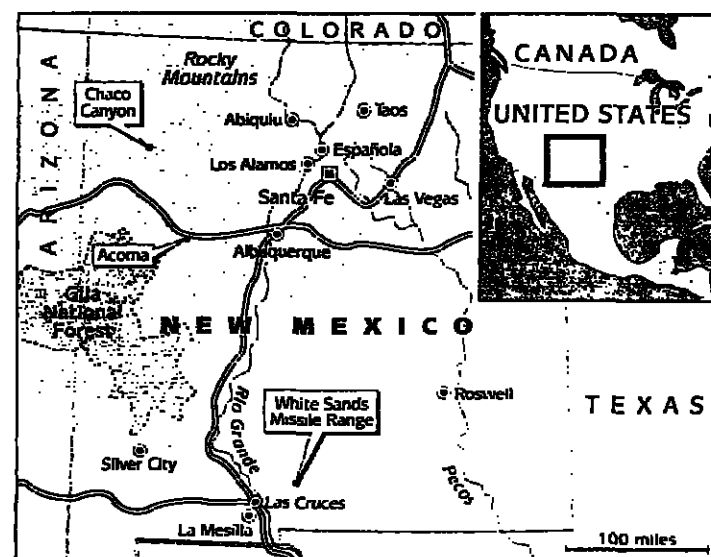
Accommodation

All standard US motel chains are represented in the state. For a double room (two double beds, all facilities) you can expect to pay \$50-90 a night. Some include Continental breakfast. Small motels

usually charge about \$30-50 per night for a double room. One-off: La Fonda, Santa Fe (001 505 982 5611) \$200 a night, plus; Cities of Gold Hotel (Indian owned, on reservation) at Pojoaque near Española around \$85 a night.

Recommended reading

New Mexico: Off the Beaten Path, by Todd Staats, Voyager, Pequot Press, 1994; *From Santa Fe to O'Keeffe Country*, by Rhoda Barkan and Peter Sinclair, Ocean Tree Books (505-983-1412). The New Mexico state website is <www.nmenchantment.com>



New York's most exclusive club

East Hampton is an illusion of perfection for the rich, writes Tina Stallard

EAST HAMPTON on a Thursday morning had the air of a ghost town. Huge houses sat beyond curving drives, surrounded by lush striped lawns and precision-trimmed hedges. But there was no sign of life. It was as though an alien spacecraft had whisked away all the inhabitants of this exclusive Long Island resort, but generously given them time to close all the windows and lock the garage doors before leaving.

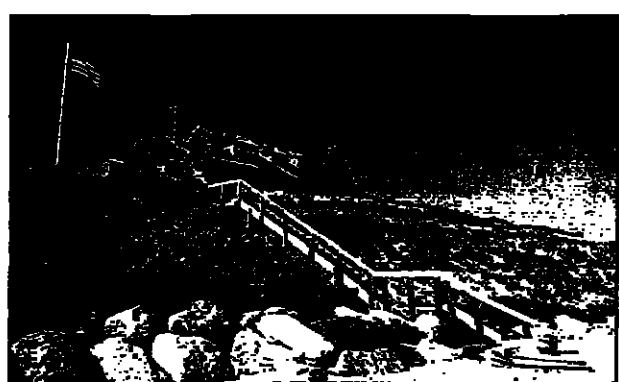
We stood and gawped at the sheer magnificence of the houses. Many of them were in the classic New England style - large wooden houses of dazzling white with pretty gable windows and deep porches, designed for lazy rocking chairs and iced tea. They sat alongside architectural fantasies straight out of *The Great Gatsby*. We saw a sprawling mock-Tudor mansion and a neo-classical villa with wrought-iron balconies. There was also a Spanish-style hacienda with pinkish-tile roofs and a futuristic curved building of concrete and dark glass.

During the week, the East Hamptonites migrate the hundred miles west to Manhattan. They are a select crowd: among them are Calvin Klein, Steven Spielberg and Ralph Lauren. Kim Basinger and Alec Baldwin are near neighbours. They leave their exquisite homes and gardens in the care of quiet and efficient armies of housekeepers and garden contractors. But by Friday morning the pace picks up: florists and grocery vans speed up and down with deliveries and early in the afternoon the first Range Rovers in a slow convoy begin to arrive. They are driven by elegant women in sunglasses, who have braved the fearsome Friday traffic jams on to Long Island, with a cargo of children and dogs. In the evening, the Wall Streeters arrive by train, or perhaps by private plane.

It is clear what attracts these people to this part of Long Island. East Hampton is not really a town - it is more like a private club for wealthy New Yorkers. Its facilities include miles of glorious beach, im-

maculate landscapes and buildings and a charming high street heavily weighted towards antiques, designer clothes and restaurants. The locals protect their environment fiercely. The town has historical societies, preservation societies and conservationists everywhere you look. There is even a Ladies Village Improvement Society (founded in 1895). Much hard work has gone into creating this illusion of perfection.

During our stay we somehow felt caught up in a Henry James novel. We could imagine the whispered discussions about class and social acceptability, the humiliation of those black-balled by the golf club, the parents desperate to secure a desirable son-in-law.



The Hamptons - weekend heaven for New Yorkers. Rex

maculate landscapes and buildings and a charming high street heavily weighted towards antiques, designer clothes and restaurants. The locals protect their environment fiercely. The town has historical societies, preservation societies and conservationists everywhere you look. There is even a Ladies Village Improvement Society (founded in 1895). Much hard work has gone into creating this illusion of perfection.

Those who are not part of the social set spend much of their time star-spotting. The local paper publishes an account of who has been seen at which parties and which stars have been seen out shopping and where. In the shops, the assistants seem to be looking out for the famous. Once they realise

you don't qualify, they are polite and helpful, but keep glancing over your shoulder.

It was quite a relief to relax in an area of East Hampton called Springs. On this side of the island, the water is calm, and small wooded islands are scattered along the curving bays and inlets. Yachts are moored in marinas and anchored off the beaches. We found our way to Bristow's, a relaxed restaurant overlooking one of the bays, where we

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ENT761

NEW FILMS

CHARACTER (15)

Director: Mike van Diem
Starring: Jan Dekker, Fredja van Huet (subtitles)
This intelligent but uneven drama about betrayal got an Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film.
Limited Release

THE DOOM GENERATION (18)

Director: Gregg Araki
Starring: James Duval, Rose McGowan, Jonathan Schaech
Gory, tongue-in-cheek road movie about a couple who hit the road with a psychotic friend. Fun for the first half-hour, deadening for the rest.
Limited Release

KISSING A FOOL (15)

Director: Doug Elton
Starring: David Schwimmer, Jason Lee, Mili Avital
David Schwimmer plays a television sportscaster who falls in love with his best friend's editor. But insecurity intrudes on their wedding plans.
Limited Release

LETHAL WEAPON 4 (15)

Director: Richard Donner
Starring: Mel Gibson, Danny Glover, Chris Rock

Detectives Riggs (Mel Gibson) and Murtaugh (Danny Glover) are up against the Triads, but a more pressing issue is their own middle-age.
Countryside Release

LOVE IS THE DEVIL (18)

Director: John Maybury
Starring: Derek Jacobi, Daniel Craig, Tilda Swinton
Derek Jacobi gives a ferocious performance as artist Francis Bacon in this first feature from experimental film-maker John Maybury.
Limited Release

MEN WITH GUNS

(HOMBRES ARMADOS) (15)
Director: John Sayles
Starring: Federico Luppi, Damian Delgado (subtitles)
A doctor discovers that all of his previous students have met with a grisly end in Latin America.
Limited Release

PEPE LE MOKO (15)

Director: Julien Duvivier
Starring: Jean Gabin, Mireille Balin (subtitles)
Long-overdue revival of this tender thriller.
Limited Release

Ryan Gilbey



of Leicester Square, you could do worse than catch *Fast Times at Ridgemont High*, a sassy and endearing high-school comedy which marked the screenwriting debut of Cameron Crowe (later to find glory writing and directing *Jerry McGuire*), as well as an early role for Sean Penn. It was originally released when the likes of *Pulp Fiction* and *Hot Shots!* were luring hormonal teenagers into darkened cinemas, but its view of sex is altogether sunnier and less coy than those movies. *Prince Charles, London WC2* (0171-437 8181) until tomorrow evening

Film Ryan Gilbey

AS YOU READ this, a few hundred Londoners will be at various stages of delirium, psychosis or celluloid-induced glee. Yes, the Prince Charles cinema's 48-hour movie marathon, *Primal Screen*, is in full swing. Among the treats dished up today are the Coen Brothers' (left) playful thriller *Blood Simple* (1pm), the wonderful comedy *Clerks* (3pm), and a surprise film at midnight which, given the marathon's eclectic bill, could be just about anything. If you are reading this before 9am and are in the vicinity

Theatre Dominic Cavendish

RICHARD OLIVIER directs *The Merchant of Venice* (right), closing tonight, as an unashamedly riotous, crowd-baiting affair, conducted to the whine of sackbut and the beat of tambour. The audience participation (urged on by Theatre de Complicite stalwart Marcello Magni) becomes satisfyingly problematic, though, when Norbert Krentz's dignified Shylock gets deadly serious. *Shakespeare's Globe, London SE1* (0171-401 9919) 7.30pm
By all accounts, the newly formed Northern Stage Ensemble give Anthony Burgess's stage version of *A Clockwork Orange* the high-octane multi-media treatment it deserves. Alex Elliott plays the nadsat-speaking teenage delinquent on the road to questionable rehab. Truly zammecat, my lewdees. *Queen's Theatre, Barnstaple* (01271 324242) 7.45pm



GENERAL RELEASE

ARMAGEDDON (12)

This deeply stupid film purports to be a tender love story, a meaty action adventure and a global disaster movie in which a meteor is on a collision course with Earth. Its mix of styles will end up pleasing no one.

BABYMOOTHER (15)

An endearing reggae musical which takes an old idea and douses it in gaudy colours. The film focuses on Anita (Anjela Lauren Smith), a "baby-mother" who lives in north London and longs to be a reggae star but is hampered by her responsibility to her son and daughter.

LE BOSSU (15)

Sumptuous swashbucklers are fast becoming French cinema's stock-in-trade. This effort doesn't break much new ground, but is acted and shot with such magnificent braggadocio that the lack of originality seldom matters.

DR DOLITTLE (PG)

The snappy new film version of Dr Dolittle shows Eddie Murphy's talents are more pliable than they might first have appeared.

EVE'S BAYOU (15)

Rites-of-passage drama set in Louisiana. It is not the director's fault that the landscapes have been devalued by too many Southern Comfort ads. Despite some intuitive observations, this feels for the most part like reheated *Fried Green Tomatoes*.

HE GOT GAME (18)

The plot of Spike Lee's latest film is pure poppycock. Jake Shuttlesworth (Denzel Washington) is doing time for the murder of his wife but is offered a deal which could cut short his sentence if he can persuade his basketball star son to sign up with the Governor's alma mater. Lee coaxes an impressive performance from Washington but it is his own stylistic excesses which are the film's undoing.

THE HORSE WHISPERER (PG)

Robert Redford's deeply self-indulgent and over-long film of Nicholas Evans's novel is a textbook lesson in the narcissistic allure of cinema. Redford plays a Montana farmer who specialises in equine psychology. He agrees to help New York magazine editor Kristin Scott Thomas, whose daughter has been traumatised in a riding accident.

THE LAND GIRLS (12)

Rachel Weisz, Anna Friel and Catherine McCormack are the "land girls" called upon in the Second World War to take the place of the farmers who have departed for war. Nothing surprising here - sexual awakening, broad laughs, a smattering of tragedy - but very nicely done.

THE LAST DAYS OF DISCO (15)

In the fictional club at the centre of Whit Stillman's dry and slightly sad comedy, everything sparkles under the light from the glitterball. Stillman does a fine job of capturing the mixture of flair, invigoration and uncertainty by which any burgeoning trend is characterised and it's refreshing to find a work that is this enchanting and intelligent.

LOCK, STOCK & TWO SMOKING BARRELS (18)

This film follows the lead of Quentin Tarantino but its defining characteristic is its resilient morality. The picture is peopled by thugs, both amateur and professional. Young Eddy, who comes unstuck in a high-stakes card game, falls into the former category, but Hatchet Harry, to whom he owes £500,000, is a dangerous old-school pro.

THE MAGIC SWORD: QUEST FOR CAMELOT (U)

The first full-length product of Warner's new animation division, this looks and sounds, thanks to the inevitable Celine Dion, even cheesier than the average Disney effort. But there's an edge of weirdness that will keep parents entertained, if it doesn't scare the children out of their wits.

SAVING PRIVATE RYAN (15)

In Spielberg's Second World War drama, Captain John Miller (Tom Hanks) is dispatched with his squad on a compassionate mission to seek out a young private behind enemy lines and return him home to safety. It is unlikely that many viewers will emerge from the picture warmed by emotional catharsis - it is the harsh, devastating battle sequences which are branded on the memory.

THE SPANISH PRISONER (PG)

David Mamet's intricate little thriller is a playful exercise in twisting a plot until it locks; there is a scientific detachment to the way he explores every permutation of his Kafkaesque scenario. At the same time, however, the movie is also slyly funny.

SPECIES II (18)

Ludicrous science-fiction horror about a strand of alien DNA carried back to Earth in the bodies of astronauts. Cornball dialogue and an abundance of sex and violence make this passable B-movie fun.

LA VIE DE JESUS (THE LIFE OF JESUS) (NC)

Bruno Dumont's brilliant debut feature is set in a desolate and lifeless town in northern France where a group of twentysomething friends rattle around on their motorbikes.

THE WEDDING SINGER (12)

Winning comedy about a romantic wedding singer (Adam Sandler) who falls for a waitress (Drew Barrymore), only to find that she's already engaged to someone else.

THE X-FILES (15)

David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson reprise their roles as FBI agents Mulder and Scully for their first big-screen outing. The leads are most engaging, through little dialogue they manage to convey great tenderness.

CINEMA
COUNTRYWIDE

ABERDEEN

ODEON (01224-587160): Dr Dolittle (PG); There's Something About Mary (15); Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels (18); Lethal Weapon 4 (15); The X-Files (15); Saving Private Ryan (15); The Horse Whisperer (PG); Armageddon (12); Deconstructing Harry (18)

VIRGIN (0541-550502): Lost In Space (PG); Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels (18); The Big Lebowski (18); Godzilla (PG); Rudyard Kipling's The Jungle Book (PG); There's Something About Mary (15); The Little Mermaid (U); Saving Private Ryan (15); The X-Files (15); Dr Dolittle (PG); The Horse Whisperer (PG); Wag the Dog (15); Armageddon (12); The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot (U); Lethal Weapon 4 (15)

BIRMINGHAM

MAC (0121-440 3838): Regeneration (15); Dance Of The Wind (U); The Big Lebowski (18); The Horse Whisperer (PG)

ODEON (0121-643 2040): Kissing A Fool (15); The X-Files (15); Barney's Great Adventure (U); The Horse Whisperer (PG); Great Expectations (15); Godzilla (PG); Lethal Weapon 4 (15); Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels (18); The Little Mermaid (U); Species II (18); Cousin Beate (15); Saving Private Ryan (15); Dr Dolittle (PG); Armageddon (12); The Last Days Of Disco (15); The Little Mermaid (U)

ARCADIAN CENTRE VIRGIN (0541-555177): Lethal Weapon 4 (15); Species II (18); Armageddon (12); The Little Mermaid (U); There's Something About Mary (15); Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels (18); Gang Related (15); The Horse Whisperer (PG); Dr Dolittle (PG); Saving Private Ryan (15); The X-Files (15); Godzilla (PG); Lost In Space (PG)

GREAT PARK VIRGIN (0121-453 0465): Dr Dolittle (PG); The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot (U); Rudyard Kipling's The Jungle Book (PG); Lost In Space (PG); Barney's Great Adventure (U); The X-Files (15); Godzilla (PG); Lethal Weapon 4 (15); The Wedding Singer (12); Saving Private Ryan (15); Species II (18); Armageddon (12); There's Something About Mary (15); The Little Mermaid (U); Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels (18); The Last Days Of Disco (15)

BOLDON COLLEGE VIRGIN (0541-550512): The Little Mermaid (U); Saving Private Ryan (15); There's Something About Mary (15); The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot (U); Rudyard Kipling's The Jungle Book (PG); Godzilla (PG); Dr Dolittle (PG); Species II (18); Lethal Weapon 4 (15); The X-Files (15); The Horse Whisperer (PG); Armageddon (12); Lost In Space (PG); Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels (18)

BOLTON WARNER VILLAGE (01204-669668): Lethal Weapon 4 (15); There's Something About Mary (15); Duplicate (PG); Kissin' A Fool (15); The Horse Whisperer (PG); Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels (18); Dr Dolittle (PG); Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels (18); Mouseshunt (PG); Lost In Space (PG); Titanic (12); Di Se (NC); The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot (U); Saving Private Ryan (15); The X-Files (15); Godzilla (PG)

CARLISLE LONSDALE CINEMAS (01228-514654): There's Something About Mary (15); Barney's Great Adventure (U); Dr Dolittle (PG); The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot (U); Rudyard Kipling's The Jungle Book (PG); Godzilla (PG); The X-Files (15); The Little Mermaid (U); Lethal Weapon 4 (15); The X-Files (15); The Horse Whisperer (PG); Armageddon (12); Lost In Space (PG); Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels (18); The Last Days Of Disco (15)

CLYDEBANK

UCI (0141-9512022): Godzilla (PG); The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot (U); Mouseshunt (PG); The Horse Whisperer (PG); Barney's Great Adventure (U); The Wedding Singer (12); Dr Dolittle (PG); There's Something About Mary (15); Saving Private Ryan (15); The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Release) (18); Lethal Weapon 4 (15); The X-Files (15); William Shakespeare's Romeo + Juliet (12); Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels (18); Armageddon (12); The Little Mermaid (U); Di Se (NC); Lost In Space (PG)

DONCASTER ODEON (01302-342523): There's Something About Mary (15); Great Expectations (15); Dr Dolittle (PG); Lethal Weapon 4 (15); Armageddon (12); Saving Private Ryan (15); Paulie (U)

WARNER VILLAGE (01302-371313): Lost In Space (PG); Armageddon (12); Lethal Weapon 4 (15); The X-Files (15); The Horse Whisperer (PG); Mr Magoo (PG); Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels (18); Dr Dolittle (PG); Species II (18); There's Something About Mary (15); Saving Private Ryan (15)

DUNDEE ABC (01382-226865): Dr Dolittle (PG); Saving Private Ryan (15); Lethal Weapon 4 (15)

ODEON (01382-400855): Armageddon (12); The Apostle (12); The Horse Whisperer (PG); The X-Files (15); The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Release) (18); Lethal Weapon 4 (15); The Little Mermaid (U); Toy Story (PG); There's Something About Mary (15); Paulie (U); Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels (18); Dr Dolittle (PG); Mouseshunt (PG); Lethal Weapon 4 (15)

STEPS THEATRE (01382-434037): The Daytrippers (15); The Life Of Stuff (18); The Hanging Garden (15)

EDINBURGH ABC FILM CENTRE (0131-229 3030): There's Something About Mary (15); Saving Private Ryan (15); Lethal Weapon 4 (15); Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels (18)

ABC WESTER HAILIES (0131-453 2494): The X-Files (15); There's Something About Mary (15); Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels (18); Lost In Space (PG); Armageddon (12); Dr Dolittle (PG); Lethal Weapon 4 (15); The Little Mermaid (U); The Horse Whisperer (PG); Saving Private Ryan (15)

CAMEO (0131-228 4141): Love Is The Devil (18); The Daytrippers (15); Basquiat (15); The Spanish Prisoner (PG); Dazed And Confused (18); Flirt (15); Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels (18); There's Something About Mary (15)

DOMINION (0131-447 4771): Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels (18); Lethal Weapon 4 (15); Saving Private Ryan (15); The Horse Whisperer (PG)

FILMHOUSE (0131-228 2688): Sid And Nancy (18); Mindwalk (NC); La Vie De Jesus (The Life Of Jesus) (NC); Woodstock: The Director's Cut (15); Secret Defense (PG); Le Bossu (15); The Last Days Of Disco (15)

ODEON (0131-668 2101): Mouseshunt (PG); Saving Private Ryan (15); The Horse Whisperer (PG); Remond (12); Dr Dolittle (PG); Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels (18); Cousin Beate (15); Star Kid (PG); The X-Files (15); George Of The Jungle (U); Lethal Weapon 4 (15)

GLASGOW

CLARKSON ROAD (0141-637 2641): Saving Private Ryan (15); Lethal Weapon 4 (15); There's Something About Mary (15); Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels (18); Paulie (U)

ABC SAUCHIEHALL ST (0141-332 9513): Saving Private Ryan (15); Cousin Beate (15); Kissin' A Fool (15); There's Something About Mary (15); Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels (18); The Spanish Prisoner (PG)

THE BOMBAY (0141-419 0722): Pyaar Kiya To Darna Kya (PG); Duffie Raja (NC)

CALEDONIAN GROSVENOR (0141-339 4298): L.A. Confidential (18); Mouseshunt (PG); Saving Private Ryan (15); Lethal Weapon 4 (15)

ODEON (0141-333 9551): Dr Dolittle (PG); Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels (18); The X-Files (15); The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Release) (18); Armageddon (12); The Horse Whisperer (PG); Lethal Weapon 4 (15); Saving Private Ryan (15); There's Something About Mary (15)

SPRINGFIELD QUAY (0141-418 0345): The Last Days Of Disco (15); He Got Game (18); Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels (18); The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot (U); Lethal Weapon 4 (15); Anastasia (12); The Wedding Singer (12); Saving Private Ryan (15); Lost In Space (PG); Paws (PG); Kissin' A Fool (15); Dr Dolittle (PG); Godzilla (PG); The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Release) (18); Cousin Beate (15); There's Something About Mary (15); Armageddon (12); The Horse Whisperer (PG); The X-Files (15)

VIRGIN FORCE PARKHEAD (0541-560562): Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels (18); Lethal Weapon 4 (15); The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot (U); Saving Private Ryan (15); Lost In Space (PG); Saving Private Ryan (15); There's Something About Mary (15); Dr Dolittle (PG); The X-Files (15); Godzilla (PG); The Horse Whisperer (PG)

HULL ODEON (01482-586420): The X-Files (15); The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot (U); Good Will Hunting (15); Lethal Weapon 4 (15); Gang Related (15); Saving Private Ryan (15); Paulie (U); Flubber (U); Mouseshunt (PG); Dr Dolittle (PG); Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels (18); Saving Private Ryan (15); Lost In Space (PG); Species II (18); Armageddon (12)

UCI 8 ST ANDREWS QUAY (01482-587525): Mouseshunt (PG); There's Something About Mary (15); The Replacement Killers (18); Dr Dolittle (PG); Barney's Great Adventure (U); The X-Files (15); Armageddon (12); The Horse Whisperer (PG); William Shakespeare's Romeo + Juliet (12); Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels (18); Saving Private Ryan (15); Lost In Space (PG); Di Se (NC)

LEEDS ABC (0113-245 1013): Eve's Bayou (15); Dr Dolittle (PG); Lost In Space (PG); Saving Private Ryan (15); Cousin Beate (15); The Spanish Prisoner (PG); The Little Mermaid (U); There's Something About Mary (15); Armageddon (12); The Wedding Singer (12)

LOUNGE (0113-230 2562): Saving Private Ryan (15); Paulie (U)

ODEON (0113-243 6230): Armageddon (12); The X-Files (15); There's Something About Mary (15); The Little Mermaid (U); The Horse Whisperer (PG); Dr Dolittle (PG); Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels (18); Midnight In The Garden Of Good And Evil (15); Lethal Weapon 4 (15); Saving Private Ryan (15)

WARNER VILLAGE (0113-279 9833): Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels (18); Species II (18); The X-Files (15); Lethal Weapon 4 (15); There's Something About Mary (15); Mr Magoo (PG); Godzilla (PG); Dr Dolittle (PG); There's Something About Mary (15); Saving Private Ryan (15); Armageddon (12); Lost In Space (PG); Titanic (12); The Horse Whisperer (PG)

LEICESTER

ODEON FREEMANS PARK (0116-255 5512): Barney's Great Adventure (U); The Little Mermaid (U); Godzilla (PG); The X-Files (15); The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot (U); There's Something About Mary (15); Lethal Weapon 4 (15); The Horse Whisperer (PG); Great Expectations (15); Mouseshunt (PG); Saving Private Ryan (15); Flubber (U); Dr Dolittle (PG); Star Kid (PG); Armageddon (12); Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels (18); Cousin Beate (15); Lost In Space (PG)

WARNER VILLAGE (0116-282 7733): Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels (18); The Little Mermaid (U); Armageddon (12); The Horse Whisperer (PG); Godzilla (PG); There's Something About Mary (15); Lost In Space (PG); The X-Files (15); Species II (18); Dr Dolittle (PG); Mr Magoo (PG); Lethal Weapon 4 (15)

LIVERPOOL ABC ALFINGTON (0151-724 5095): Saving Private Ryan (15); The Little Mermaid (U)

ODEON (01426-950072): Dr Dolittle (PG); Paws (PG); Cousin Beate (15); Fairytale: A True Story (U); The X-Files (15); Saving Private Ryan (15); Armageddon (12); There's Something About Mary (15); Lethal Weapon 4 (15); Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels (18)

VIRGIN (0541-555146): Lost In Space (PG); The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot (U); Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels (18); The X-Files (15); The Little Mermaid (U); Lethal Weapon 4 (15); There's Something About Mary (15); The Horse Whisperer (PG); Godzilla (PG); Dr Dolittle (PG); Barney's Great Adventure (U)

WOOLTON PICTURE HOUSE (0151-428 1919): Saving Private Ryan (15); Dr Dolittle (PG)

MANCHESTER ARENA SEVEN (0161-839 0700): The Last Days Of Disco (15); The X-Files (15); Dr Dolittle (PG); Saving Private Ryan (15); The Spanish Prisoner (PG); Armageddon (12); Paulie (U); Lethal Weapon 4 (15)

CINECITY (0161-445 8181): Kurt & Courtney (15); He Got Game (18); The Castle (15); Godzilla (PG); Dr Dolittle (PG); Mahanaraj (PG)

ODEON (01426-950148): The Horse Whisperer (PG); Cousin Beate (15); The X-Files (15); Anastasia (U); George Of The Jungle (U); There's Something About Mary (15); Saving Private Ryan (15); Lethal Weapon 4 (15); Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels (18); Armageddon (12); Dr Dolittle (PG)

UCI TRAFFORD CENTRE (0870-603 4567): The Horse Whisperer (PG); Lost In Space (PG); Titanic (12); Di Se (NC); He Got Game (18); Dr Dolittle (PG); Cousin Beate (15); The X-Files (15); The Last Days Of Disco (15); Lethal Weapon 4 (15); Kissin' A Fool (15); Gang Related (15); Barney's Great Adventure (U); Species II (18); Godzilla (PG); Di Se (NC); The X-Files (15); Saving Private Ryan (15); Lethal Weapon 4 (15); Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels (18); Saving Private Ryan (15); Flubber (U)

WARNER VILLAGE (0191-221 0202): Lethal Weapon 4 (15); Lost In Space (PG); Titanic (12); Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels (18); Species II (18); Godzilla (PG); Dr Dolittle (PG); There's Something About Mary (15); The X-Files (15); Armageddon (12); Saving Private Ryan (15); The Horse Whisperer (PG)

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE THE ARCHER (0191-281 3010): Nobody's Fool (15)

NOTTINGHAM

ABC (0115-947 5260): Saving Private Ryan (15); Zero Effect (15); Lost In Space (PG); Kissin' A Fool (15)

ODEON (0115-947 3273): Dr Dolittle (PG); Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels (18); Midnight In The Garden Of Good And Evil (15); The X-Files (15); Lethal Weapon 4 (15); The Horse Whisperer (PG); There's Something About Mary (15); Armageddon (12); Saving Private Ryan (15); Godzilla (PG)

PRESTON WARNER VILLAGE (01772-881313): Saving Private Ryan (15); Species II (18); There's Something About Mary (15); Armageddon (12); Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels (18); Lethal Weapon 4 (15); Lost In Space (PG); The X-Files (15); Mr Magoo (PG); The Horse Whisperer (PG); Dr Dolittle (PG)

UCI 10 (01772-728888): Godzilla (PG); The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot (U); Armageddon (12); Barney's Great Adventure (U); Mouseshunt (PG); Titanic (12); William Shakespeare's Romeo + Juliet (12); The Horse Whisperer (PG); Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels (18); Dr Dolittle (PG); Saving Private Ryan (15); The Little Mermaid (U); Cousin Beate (15); The X-Files (15); There's Something About Mary (15); Gurr Gobbind Slagh (NC)

SHEFFIELD ODEON (0114-279 7602): Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels (18); Armageddon (12); Paulie (U); Lost In Space (PG); Mr Magoo (PG); Cousin Beate (15); The X-Files (15); Saving Private Ryan (15); There's Something About Mary (15); Dr Dolittle (PG); Good Will Hunting (15); Lethal Weapon 4 (15); Species II (18); The Horse Whisperer (PG); Godzilla (PG)

WARNER VILLAGE (0114-256 9444): The Horse Whisperer (PG); Mr Magoo (PG); Godzilla (PG); Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels (18); Dr Dolittle (PG); There's Something About Mary (15); Saving Private Ryan (15); Lethal Weapon 4 (15); Lost In Space (PG); Armageddon (12); Titanic (12); The Little Mermaid (U); Species II (18); The X-Files (15)

UCI CRYSTAL PEAKS 10 (0114-247 0095): Di Se (NC); The Horse Whisperer (PG); Godzilla (PG); The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot (U); Lethal Weapon 4 (15); Armageddon (12); Species II (18); Paulie (U); Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels (18); Barney's Great Adventure (U); There's Something About Mary (15); Lethal Weapon 4 (15); Species II (18); The Little Mermaid (U); The X-Files (15); Lost In Space (PG); Saving Private Ryan (15); Dr Dolittle (PG); William Shakespeare's Romeo + Juliet (12)

STONE-ON-TRENT ABC (01782-212320): Saving Private Ryan (15); Dr Dolittle (PG); There's Something About Mary (15); Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels (18); Lethal Weapon 4 (15)

FILM THEATRE (01782-411188): Deconstructing Harry (18); Washington Square (PG)

ODEON (01782-219195): The Borrowers (U); Species II (18); Armageddon (12); Mouseshunt (PG); Dr Dolittle (PG); Good Burger (PG); The X-Files (15); Lost In Space (PG); The Little Mermaid (U); The Horse Whisperer (PG); The Replacement Killers (18); Godzilla (PG); Great Expectations (15); Cousin Beate (15); Barney's Great Adventure (U); There's Something About Mary (15); Paws (PG); Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels (18); Saving Private Ryan (15); Lethal Weapon 4 (15)

YORK ODEON (01904-623287): Midnight In The Garden Of Good And Evil (15); Saving Private Ryan (15); Dr Dolittle (PG); There's Something About Mary (15); The X-Files (15); Lethal Weapon 4 (15)

WARNER VILLAGE (01904-691094): The X-Files (15); Dr Dolittle (PG); Lethal Weapon 4 (15); Armageddon (12); The Last Days Of Disco (15); Cousin Beate (15); The Little Mermaid (U); There's Something About Mary (15);

LOCK, STOCK & TWO SMOKING BARRELS (18)

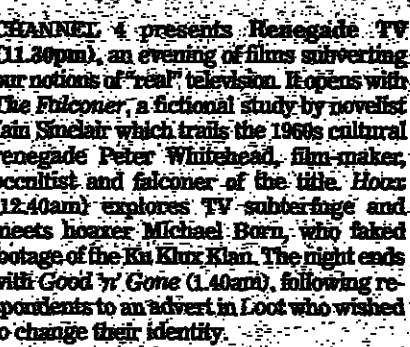
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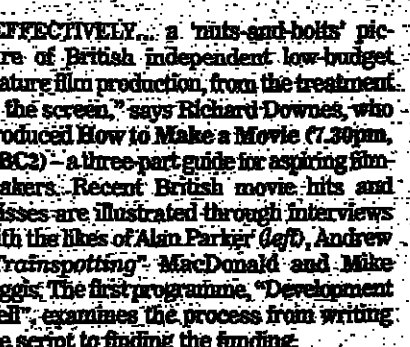
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TUESDAY TELEVISION

BBC1

- 6.00 Business Breakfast** (88025), **7.00 News** (T) (88025), **9.00 Killy** (S) (T) (88025), **9.40 Style Challenge** (S) (88025), **10.05 Top Tip Challenge** (S) (88025), **10.30 Daily Live** (S) (88025), **10.55 News** (T) (88025), **11.00 Conference Live** (S) (T) (88025), **12.55 The Weather Show** (S) (T) (88025), **1.00 News** (T) (88025), **1.30 Regional News** (88025), **1.40 Neighbours** (S) (T) (88025), **2.05 Breakers** (S) (88025), **2.25 Quinny** (88025), **3.45 The Weather Show** (S) (T) (88025).
- 3.25 Children's BBC:** **The Greasy Sausage Gang** (R) (S) (88025), **3.30 Playdays** (R) (S) (88025), **3.50 ChudeVision** (R) (S) (88025), **4.05 Gadget Boy** (R) (S) (88025), **4.35 ChudeVision** (R) (S) (88025), **5.00 Newsround** (S) (T) (88025), **5.30 Byker Grove** (S) (T) (88025).
- 5.35 Neighbours** (S) (T) (88025).
- 6.00 News: Weather** (T) (88025).
- 6.30 Regional News** (T) (88025).
- 7.00 Holiday Heaven** (S) (T) (88025).
- 7.30 EastEnders** (S) (T) (88025).
- 8.00 Fraud Squad** (S) (T) (88025).
- 8.30 Party of a Lifetime.** Ansel Hartnett starts a new series in which he is invited to lay on surprise parties (S) (T) (88025).
- 9.00 News: Regional News** (T) (88025).
- 9.30 Men Behaving Badly.** Laddish sitcom (R) (S) (T) (88025).
- 10.00 Crimewatch: Still Unsolved.** Police appeal to the public (S) (T) (88025).
- 10.50 Escape** (S) (T) (88025).
- 11.30 [FILM] Telephone** (Don Siegel 1977, US). KGB man Charles Bronson teams with double agent Lee Remick to stop a Stalinist psycho from blowing up installations in America (T) (88025).
- 12.00 Joins BBC News 24** (2275014). To 6am.

BBC2

- 6.30 The Publicity of Oxygen** (88006), **6.35 Smithson and Serra** (88006), **7.00 Teletubbies** (S) (88006), **7.25 Struwwelpeter** (S) (88006), **7.45 Blue Peter** (S) (88006), **8.45 Noah's Island** (R) (S) (88006), **8.55 The Greasy Sausage Gang** (R) (S) (88006), **9.00 Harry and the Hendersons** (S) (T) (88006), **9.30 Voces Españolas** (S) (88006), **9.45 Number One** (S) (88006), **10.00 Teletubbies** (S) (88006), **10.30 Watch** (S) (88006), **10.45 Science Zone** (S) (88006), **11.00 Space Ark** (88006), **11.55 Megamaths** (S) (88006), **12.55 Watch** (S) (88006), **1.30 History File** (T) (88006), **1.40 Out of Sight** (R) (S) (T) (88006), **2.00 Working Lunch** (88006), **2.40 Whistling** (R) (S) (88006), **2.50 The Little Polar Bear** (88006), **3.45 The Country Side Hour** (S) (88006), **2.55 News** (T) (88006), **3.00 Conference Live** (S) (T) (88006), **3.55 News** (T) (88006), **4.00 Change That** (S) (T) (88006), **4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook** (S) (T) (88006), **4.55 Esther** (S) (T) (88006), **5.30 Today's the Day** (S) (T) (88006).
- 6.00 Gower's Cricket Monthly** (88006).
- 6.45 Conference Talk 98** (T) (88006).
- 7.30 Just One Chance** (S) (88006).
- 8.00 Upper Crust** (S) (T) (88006).
- 8.30 The Antiques Show** (S) (T) (88006).
- 9.00 This Could Be the Last Time.** Joan Plowright stars as an old lady growing frail and absent-minded. Her family want to put her in a home, but she prefers to go on the run in Paris (S) (88006).
- 10.35 Newsnight** (T) (88006).
- 11.20 Raiders of the Human Body** (S) (88006), **12.00 Grace under Fire** (S) (88006), **12.30 Learning Zone: Maths** (88006), **1.30 To Engineer is Human** (88006), **2.00 Zig Zag** (88006), **4.00 Italianissimo** (88006), **5.00 Business and Training** (88006), **5.45 Out: In Search of Identity** (88006), To 6.00am.

ITV Granada

- 6.00 GMTV** (77025), **9.25 Trisha** (T) (88006), **10.45 This Morning** (T) (88006), **12.00 Granada News** (T) (88006), **12.30 News** (T) (88006), **1.00 Home and Away** (T) (88006), **1.25 Jerry Springer** (S) (T) (88006), **2.00 Coronation Street** (T) (88006), **2.40 Dales Supermarket Sweep** (S) (T) (88006), **3.45 News** (T) (88006), **3.50 Granada News** (T) (88006).
- 3.25 Children's ITV: Wizards** (R) (S) (88006), **3.35 The Singing Kettle** (S) (88006), **3.45 Waves, Witches and Giants** (S) (88006), **4.00 Zzzap!** (S) (88006), **4.20 Jumanji** (T) (88006), **4.40 Out of Sight** (R) (S) (T) (88006), **5.00 Home and Away** (S) (T) (88006), **5.45 News** (T) (88006).
- 5.55 Granada Tonight** (T) (88006).
- 7.00 Emmerdale** Zak and Butch turn to serious crime. (S) (T) (88006).
- 7.30 House Style** (T) (88006).
- 8.00 The Bill.** Stamp attends the funeral of Simon Atwell (T) (88006).
- 9.00 Supply and Demand.** Extra finally discovers the truth about the Farlow and the team are sent on a damage limitation exercise which ends in tragedy (S) (T) (88006).
- 10.00 News: Weather** (T) (88006).
- 10.30 Granada News** (T) (88006).
- 10.40 The Alex Ferguson Story.** Footballing profile (S) (T) (88006).
- 11.40 Renegade** (1989), **12.35 The Haunted Flat** (88006), **1.05 Planet Rock Profiles** (S) (88006), **1.35 British Motor Sport** (88006).
- 2.05 [FILM] Shadow of Fear** (Ernest Morris 1963, UK). Paul Maxwell in tedious spy B-feature (88006).
- 3.00 Soundtracks** (S) (88006), **3.30 Nationwide Football League Extra** (88006), **4.05 Soundtrack** (88006), **4.20 Nightscreen** (88006), **5.30 News** (88006), To 6.00am.

Channel 4

- 6.00 Sesame Street** (R) (S) (88006), **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (S) (T) (88006), **8.00 Channel 4 Schools** (70200), **11.30 Moving People** (R) (S) (88006), **12.00 Sesame Street** (88006), **12.30 I Dream of Jeannie** (88006), **1.00 Watercolour Challenge** (T) (88006), **1.30 Hold Please** (88006), **1.40 The 15 Minute Film Festival** (88006), **1.50 U.S. (88006), 2.30 Wings** (88006), **4.00 Fifteen to One** (88006), **4.30 Countdown** (S) (T) (88006), **4.55 Ricki Lake** (R) (S) (T) (88006).
- 5.30 Pet Rescue** (S) (T) (88006).
- 6.00 Cheers** (T) (88006).
- 6.30 King of the Hill.** Hank catches Bobby smoking (R) (S) (T) (88006).
- 7.00 News: Weather** (S) (T) (88006).
- 7.55 Algeria Daily** (T) (88006).
- 8.00 In Your Dreams.** Series ends by asking if dreams can be a gateway to a higher, spiritual world (T) (88006).
- 8.30 Brookside.** Mick is in turmoil as he makes up his mind whether to sleep with Andrea (S) (T) (88006).
- 9.00 [CHOICE] Equinox.** An investigation into the theory that the dinosaurs were killed off by volcanic activity of unthinkable magnitude. See *Choice*, below (177).
- 10.00 Ultraviolet.** Second part of the thriller. A blacked-out Mercedes is attacked and the squad suspects that the car's driver was a vampire (T) (88006).
- 11.05 [FILM] The Amazing Howard Hughes** (1977). American mini-series following the life of the reclusive billionaire (88006).
- 12.55 The Real World** (R) (88006), **1.25 Homicide: Life on the Street** (R) (88006).
- 2.25 [FILM] Girl Sky** (Fred Newmeyer, Sam Taylor 1924, US). Bashful Harold Lloyd rescues pretty gal from bigamous villain in silent classic (88006).
- 4.00 Schools** (88006), To 6.00am.

Channel 5

- 6.00 5 News** (S) (88006), **7.00 WideWorld** (R) (S) (T) (88006), **7.30 Milkshake!** (S) (88006), **7.55 What-a-Mess** (1443657), **8.00 Hatzkazo** (S) (88006), **8.30 Dapple-down Farm** (88006), **9.00 The Great Garden Game** (S) (T) (88006), **9.25 Russell Grant's Postcards** (88006), **9.30 Oprah** (S) (T) (88006), **10.20 Sunset Beach** (S) (T) (88006), **11.00 Lezza** (S) (88006), **12.00 5 News** (S) (88006), **12.30 Family Affairs** (S) (T) (88006), **1.30 The Bold and the Beautiful** (S) (T) (88006), **1.30 Sons and Daughters** (88006), **2.00 100 Per Cent Gold** (S) (88006), **2.30 Open House** (S) (88006).
- 3.30 [FILM] The Almost Perfect Cop.** Robbery (David Burton Morris 1996, UK). Clean-cut cop Dylan Walsh has his head turned by material girl Brooke Shields. She works in a bank. A dumb plan is formulated (88006).
- 5.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show** (S) (88006).
- 6.00 100 Per Cent** (S) (88006).
- 6.30 Family Affairs** (S) (T) (88006).
- 7.00 5 News** (S) (T) (88006).
- 7.30 Exporting Evil - Saddam's Hidden Weapons.** A look behind the reasons for the US's controversial recent attack on the Al Shifa medicine plant in Sudan (88006).
- 8.00 World's Most Daring Rescues.** Documentary highlighting rescues with real-life footage (S) (T) (88006).
- 9.00 [FILM] Lethal Weapon II** (Richard Donner 1989, US). Knockabout cops Mel Gibson and Danny Glover take on South African bad guys in sally sequel to the much tougher original (S) (T) (88006).
- 11.05 The Jack Docherty Show** (88006), **11.45 The Streets of San Francisco** (R) (T) (88006), **12.45 Live and Dangerous** (S) (88006), **3.45 Asian Football Show** (88006), **4.40 Prisoner Cell Block H** (88006), **5.30 100 Per Cent** (R) (88006), To 6.00am.

ITV/Regions

- BBC1** (1998006), **6.00 Local News** (88006), **6.30 Local News** (88006), **7.00 Local News** (88006), **7.30 Local News** (88006), **8.00 Local News** (88006), **8.30 Local News** (88006), **9.00 Local News** (88006), **9.30 Local News** (88006), **10.00 Local News** (88006), **10.30 Local News** (88006), **11.00 Local News** (88006), **11.30 Local News** (88006), **12.00 Local News** (88006), **12.30 Local News** (88006), **1.00 Local News** (88006), **1.30 Local News** (88006), **2.00 Local News** (88006), **2.30 Local News** (88006), **3.00 Local News** (88006), **3.30 Local News** (88006), **4.00 Local News** (88006), **4.30 Local News** (88006), **5.00 Local News** (88006), **5.30 Local News** (88006), **6.00 Local News** (88006), **6.30 Local News** (88006), **7.00 Local News** (88006), **7.30 Local News** (88006), **8.00 Local News** (88006), **8.30 Local News** (88006), **9.00 Local News** (88006), **9.30 Local News** (88006), **10.00 Local News** (88006), **10.30 Local 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SUNDAY TELEVISION

BBC1

- 6.00 **Cartoon** (723244). 6.30 **Match of the Day** (S) (714354). 7.20 **Commonwealth Games Grandstand** (S) (723244). 8.30 **Breakfast with Frost** (S) (723244). 9.30 **The Heaven and Earth Show** (S) (723244). 10.20 **Commonwealth Games Grandstand** (S) (723244). 1.00 **EastEnders** (R) (S) (723244).
- 2.00 **Film: Operation Crossbow** (Michael Anderson 1955 US). Unlikely wartime mission impossible, with George Peppard (595914).
- 3.50 **EastEnders** (R) (S) (723244). 5.35 **News: Weather** (S) (723244). 5.55 **Regional News and Weather** (S) (723244). 5.40 **Songs of Praise** (S) (723244).
- 6.45 **Antiques Roadshow**. Hugh Scully and a team of antiques experts assess artefacts presented by members of the public (S) (723244).
- 7.00 **Last of the Summer Wine**. Long-running sitcom (R) (S) (723244).
- 7.30 **Wildlife on One** (S) (723244).
- 8.00 **Ballyhoo**. Fitzgerald's bar becomes the object of much controversy as it is put up for auction (S) (723244).
- 8.50 **News: Weather** (S) (723244).
- 9.05 **Falling for a Dancer**. Elizabeth enjoys her first night out in six years, but the evening has disastrous consequences (S) (723244).
- 9.55 **Film: Malice** (Harold Becker 1993 US). Serpentine psycho-thriller played like a penny-dreadful by a cheerfully leering Alec Baldwin. Malicious charade with Nicole Kidman (S) (723244).
- 11.35 **Heart of the Matter** (S) (723244).
- 12.15 **Film: The Groundsweeper** (Lamont Johnson 1972 Can). A high-society space project headquarters is blown up. George Peppard wants to know why (723244).
- 1.50 **Commonwealth Games** (5776402). To Gam.

BBC2

- 6.05 **Virtual Democracy?** (564004). 6.30 **Forrest Britain** (S) (723244). 7.20 **Approaching Literature** (S) (723244). 8.30 **Commonwealth Games Grandstand** (S) (723244). 10.20 **Link** (S) (723244). 1.00 **On the Record** (S) (723244). 11.30 **Countryfile** on Sunday (S) (723244). 12.00 **On the Record** (S) (723244). 1.00 **Commonwealth Games Grandstand** (S) (723244). 1.30 **Hockey** (S) (723244). 2.00 **Boxing** (S) (723244). 2.30 **Boxing** (S) (723244). 3.00 **Boxing** (S) (723244). 3.30 **Boxing** (S) (723244). 4.00 **Boxing** (S) (723244). 4.30 **Boxing** (S) (723244). 5.00 **Boxing** (S) (723244). 5.30 **Boxing** (S) (723244). 6.00 **Boxing** (S) (723244).
- 5.30 **Touring Cars** (48846).
- 6.30 **News Round-Up** (723244).
- 6.45 **Star Trek Voyager** (S) (723244).
- 7.30 **The Money Programme**. Are we about to face the second Great Depression of the century? (S) (723244).
- 8.30 **Whatever Happened to the Likely Lads?** (S) (723244).
- 9.00 **The Nazis - a Warning from History** (R) (S) (723244).
- 9.50 **10 x 10** (S) (723244).
- 10.00 **Maximum Bob**. It is not a good day for Public Defender Kathy Baker who only intended to spend six hours in the tick town of Deep Water (59717).
- 10.45 **Movieclips** (59717).
- 10.50 **Film: Trespass** (Walter Hill 1992 US). Pacy piece of violence involving Arkansas firemen and drug-running mobsters. With Bill Paxton, William Sadler, Ice T (S) (723244).
- 12.30 **International Golf** (S) (723244). 1.55 **Close**. 2.00 **Learning Zone: Business Studies** (S) (723244). 4.00 **French** (74732). 5.00 **Small Business** (59717). 5.30 **Better Management** (59717). 5.45 **CU: Images of Disability** (59717). To Gam.

ITV Granada

- 6.00 **GMTV** (73469). 6.30 **Diggit** (730092). 6.55 **House of Jones** (S) (73469). 9.55 **Men in Black** (S) (73469). 10.15 **Finders Keepers** (R) (73469). 10.45 **My Favourite Hymns** (S) (73469). 11.45 **Morning Worship** (S) (73469). 12.45 **Link** (S) (73469). 12.30 **In My Life** (S) (73469). 1.00 **News: Weather** (S) (73469). 1.30 **Westminster Woman** (S) (73469). 2.05 **Murder: Shari Wrota** (73469). 3.00 **Film: Diary of Anne Frank** (1959). (73469).
- 5.00 **Coronation Street** (R) (73469).
- 6.00 **Home Style** (R) (73469).
- 6.25 **Warner Cartoon** (S) (73469).
- 6.40 **Granada News** (S) (73469).
- 6.45 **News: Weather** (S) (73469).
- 7.00 **You've Been Framed** (S) (73469).
- 7.30 **Coronation Street**. The McDonalds deal with the fallout of Fiona's bombshell (S) (73469).
- 8.00 **Heartbeat**. The Aidsfield police investigate a car accident that is not as simple as it seems (S) (73469).
- 9.00 **The Jump**. Donna discovers the extent of George's criminal life, and is forced to reassess her past (584025).
- 10.05 **News: Weather** (S) (73469).
- 10.20 **Melinda Messenger Hits Hollywood** (S) (73469).
- 11.20 **Sunday Night** (S) (73469). 12.20 **In Bed with Medlin** (R) (S) (73469).
- 12.50 **Film: Triumph over Disaster: the Hurricane Andrew Story** (1993 US). This true-life tele drama is no Twister (S) (73469).
- 2.25 **H2O** (453404). 3.00 **International Motor Racing** (R) (S) (73469). 4.00 **ITV Sport Classics** (73469). 4.25 **ITV Nightvision** (73469). 5.30 **Morning News** (73469). To Gam.

Channel 4

- 6.30 **The Pink Panther Show** (R) (S) (73469). 6.55 **Little Dracula** (R) (S) (73469). 7.30 **Shirley and George** (R) (S) (73469). 8.20 **Biker Mice from Mars** (73469). 8.45 **The Odyssey** (R) (S) (73469). 9.20 **Doug** (R) (S) (73469). 9.45 **The Secret World of Alex Mack** (73469). 10.35 **The Waltons** (R) (S) (73469). 11.30 **Hollyoaks** (R) (S) (73469). 12.30 **The Real World** (R) (S) (73469). 12.40 **No Safe Haven** (S) (73469). 1.00 **News: Weather** (S) (73469). 1.30 **Football** (S) (73469). 2.45 **Football** (S) (73469). 3.00 **Football** (S) (73469). 3.15 **Football** (S) (73469). 3.30 **Football** (S) (73469). 3.45 **Football** (S) (73469). 4.00 **Football** (S) (73469). 4.15 **Football** (S) (73469). 4.30 **Football** (S) (73469). 4.45 **Football** (S) (73469). 5.00 **Football** (S) (73469). 5.15 **Football** (S) (73469). 5.30 **Football** (S) (73469). 5.45 **Football** (S) (73469). 6.00 **Football** (S) (73469). 6.15 **Football** (S) (73469). 6.30 **Football** (S) 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YOUR MONEY

PERSONAL FINANCE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

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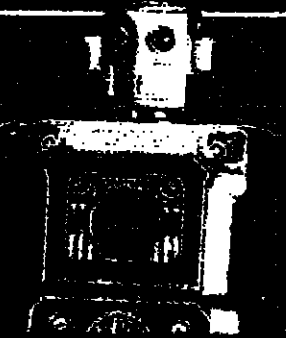


Ancient words worth their weight in gold

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Your Daddy wants me as his special toy

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Peugeot 206 - the new supermini

PAGE 9

Consumers in a power struggle



Sparks will fly as the electricity revolution unfolds. Regional energy companies are now allowed to go looking for business on rival turf: but who will really benefit - the householder or the corporation? By Paul Slade

We are on the brink of a revolution - if only we could make sense of what it all means. For the first time ever, the old power distinctions are coming apart. Are we courageous enough to meet the challenge? Those in power are intent on keeping us in the dark as to what the true position is. But if we can decipher the truth behind their claims, millions of us could benefit from the change.

This call to the barricades follows this week's announcement that electricity suppliers will be allowed to compete in each other's regions. A similar process in the gas industry has been in force for months.

Eastern Energy, Scottish Power/Manweb and Yorkshire Electricity are entering the market right away. They will be competing with British Gas Trading, which now supplies electricity, too. Customers in towns such as Chester, Hull, Motherwell and Norwich can now choose any one of the four companies above to supply not only their electricity but also their gas.

When the region-by-region electricity roll-out is completed in June next year, there will be 16 different power suppliers to choose from, all operating throughout England, Wales and Scotland.

But the promise that competition will liberate the market and slash domestic bills began to sound a little hollow after it emerged that the savings to customers may be as little as 40p a week. Moreover, the way each supplier is allowed to price electricity means that would-be consumers are unlikely ever to experience freedom from the shackles of monopolistic control.

The dream is that competition will drive prices down. The Office of Electricity Regulation (Ofreg) says: "For typical domestic consumers, their electricity supplier will be charging among the highest prices in the area. They can save by switching supplier."

But, as our table shows, the savings on electricity alone are pretty small. Direct debit payments are where the biggest savings are to be had. Even here, Ofreg's figures suggest the biggest saving possible for

an average user is just £21 a year or 40p a week. This would apply for electricity users switching from Scottish Power/Manweb to British Gas Trading and means a cut of about 8.5 per cent in the annual bill. Benet Middleton, who heads policy research at the Consumers Association, predicts savings throughout the country at between 5 and 10 per cent.

"It is nowhere near the savings that we saw on gas and that's because of the structure of the industry," he says. "Until there is more competition in electricity generation, as opposed to sales, it is unlikely we will see anything like the savings in other utilities."

THE PRICE OF POWER				
Typical annual bills, £				
Postcode area	Chester	Hull	Motherwell	Northwich
Local supplier	Manweb	Yorkshire	Scottish Power	Eastern Energy
Electricity				
British Gas Trading	257	250	246	228
Eastern Energy	262	254	262	245
Scottish Power/Manweb	272	235	263	228
Yorkshire Electricity	259	242	272	228
biggest saving	21	7	21	17
Gas				
British Gas Trading	572	572	572	572
Eastern Energy	276	276	276	276
Scottish Power/Manweb	280	280	280	280
Yorkshire Electricity	280	280	280	280
biggest saving	0	0	0	0
Electricity and Gas				
British Gas Trading	548	528	548	528
Eastern Energy	528	510	528	521
Scottish Power/Manweb	551	514	546	510
Yorkshire Electricity	535	518	548	504
combined bill from local electricity supplier	594	554	578	557
biggest saving	46	44	41	47

*Maximum saving compared to local supplier. **Maximum saving compared to British Gas Trading. ***Maximum saving compared to combined bill from local electricity supplier and British Gas Trading. Source: Office of Electricity Regulation, independent.

John Over, Yorkshire Electricity's marketing director, believes domestic electricity prices are about as low as they are likely to get for some time and thinks competition will centre on service instead.

He says: "In the gas industry, there's more of a profit margin to attack and therefore a bigger discount to be given. Clearly, we've got competitive electricity prices. I think competition will impact not only on price, but also on the range of services you expect to get."

The real significance of this week's move may be that it is now possible for some consumers to shop around for a combined package, getting both gas and electricity from a single supplier. Some offer an additional discount for these so-called "dual fuel" customers. For example, a Chester consumer buying his electricity from local supplier Manweb and his gas from British Gas would pay an average of £584 a year for the two services together. Taking a dual fuel deal from Yorkshire Electricity would cut his bill by £48.

But price is far from the only issue. Linda Lennard, senior policy officer at the National Consumer Council, says: "People should be clear on the contract they are entering into. How long does it last, and is there a penalty if they decide to swap suppliers in the middle? What are the terms and conditions applying on how they want to pay?"

Ms Lennard is also concerned that it is direct debit customers who look like getting the best deal. She says: "We want to see people on pre-payment meters and those who may have difficulties paying bills able to save as much as better-off consumers."

In the case of gas there were some notorious cases of high-pressure selling, and consumer groups warn against signing anything until you have seen full details and properly understand the deal on offer.

Mr Middleton says: "There was a purposeful strategy of using 'confusion marketing' techniques to make it very difficult for people to make real comparisons. We would like to see clear information provided that consumers can use, because it's going to be a very difficult process to work it all out."

HOW YORKSHIRE GOT AN ELECTRIC SHOCK

COMPARING PRICES among different electricity suppliers is going to be a nightmare process - as figures from the Office of Electricity Regulation (Ofreg) illustrate.

The rate that you pay will depend on factors such as the time of day when you use most power, the method that you use for payment and how promptly you pay your bills. It is this final factor which Yorkshire Electricity claims has confused the regulator.

In figures released earlier this week, Ofreg says that customers in the Motherwell area paying by quarterly credit would save £3 a year on their bills if they switched to Eastern Energy. But, according to Ofreg, the same customers would pay £10 a year more if they switched to Yorkshire Electricity instead.

Yorkshire Electricity claims that this is unfair, saying the Eastern figure includes a prompt payment discount while its own does not. The true prompt-payment difference between the two companies, Yorkshire says, is not £13 but just £5. "It's pretty confusing and it makes us look bad," says a Yorkshire spokesman.

Ofreg's Ian Bickley says the organisation has to rely on information provided by electricity suppliers when preparing its own tables and that he is satisfied its tables are as accurate as it is possible to make them. Yorkshire Electricity's objection does not affect *The Independent's* table, which shows direct debit payments rather than quarterly credit ones.

It does raise one very pertinent question, however: if Ofreg and the country's leading electricity suppliers cannot produce an agreed like-for-like comparison between two rival companies' prices, how on earth is the poor bloody customer supposed to manage it?

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Start saving, Simon

FINANCIAL MAKEOVER

NAME SIMON WHITEN AGE 29 OCCUPATION GROUP ADVERTISING MANAGER

HAVING WRITTEN only last week about mortgages, I would normally be loath to return to the subject - were it not for the revelation earlier this week that the Office of Fair Trading is musing in public on whether to hold an inquiry into the subject.

Much of the OFT's work in the financial services field has been extremely helpful. One need only think of the way it forced insurance company salespeople and financial advisers to disclose the full price, including commission, of the products they sell. But occasionally the watchdog hits a bum note and mortgages is one of them.

The OFT's concerns, explained elsewhere in this section, relate to the fact that many lenders will offer fixed-rate loans with a lock-in that extends beyond the fixed period itself. In other words, if you take out a two-year fixed rate mortgage, a heavy redemption penalty may be applied for up to three or four years after the fix ends and you have moved on to a variable rate.

The danger of this, claims the OFT, is that it raises the possibility of mortgage lenders taking advantage of the lock-in period to hit borrowers hard after their fix ends, perhaps by raising rates far above the variable rates charged to other borrowers.

Formally speaking, this is true. Equally true is the fact that no lender I know of has actually tried to do this (I will probably be inundated with examples to the contrary by this time next week). The reason lenders haven't done so and are unlikely ever to try is that they are acutely conscious of the hostile publicity they would attract if they ever tried such a scam on.

The OFT, it therefore strikes me, is using a sledgehammer to crack a nut and, to take this analogy further, it risks smashing up a lot more besides the nut. What it is now suggesting is that any lock-in period should last no longer than the fixed rate itself. Therefore when the fixed period ends, borrowers could simply pay up and go, without attracting any further penalties.

It all sounds so wonderful. Moreover there are mortgage



NIC
CICUTTI

The OFT should not try to deny borrowers the right to seek out the right mortgage

lenders today who offer this type of loan. Except - and this is the important point - the fixed rates on offer for these mortgages are generally worse than those with an extended lock-in period. In other words, if lenders aren't allowed to use extended lock-ins to recoup the money they have laid out to attract borrowers, they simply won't offer that outstanding fixed deal any longer.

Personally, I don't like extended lock-ins. But I am also aware that for many first-time borrowers they offer the possibility of a move on to the housing ladder at attractively cheap rates. As long as the pluses and minuses are clearly explained beforehand and as long as the lender doesn't try to take advantage, perhaps by having something to that effect written into the contract, what is the problem?

As I say, the OFT does important work. Maybe it should stick to that, rather than deny borrowers the freedom to seek out what is best for them.

For the last few weeks, we have run a column called Stepping Stones in our property section, where readers tell us how their moves up the housing ladder over the past decade or so have fared. We are now offering a (token) £100 prize to the reader whose moves have netted the largest increase in property values (from first buy to current valuation), since January 1988. The deadline for entries is October 31st. Write to Stepping Stones, Your Money, The Independent, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL.

SIMON IS on the verge of increasing his salary by £7,500 a year. From next week he will start a new job paying £27,500 a year, up from £20,000, plus a further £10,000 in bonuses.

With the increase in salary comes the need to give his overall finances some attention. Up to now, Simon has left money planning on the back-burner. But he would like to feel more financially secure.

Simon, who is single, lives in rented accommodation, for which he pays £380 a month. He would like to buy a home and is thinking of a 100 per cent mortgage to fund the purchase of a flat for about £95,000.

As such, he has no pension entitlements - nor does his new employer provide an occupational scheme.

He has so far avoided saving and has no investments, bar a car which he estimates is worth £3,000, garaged at his parents' house outside London. But he currently drives another car on HP, a Peugeot 306 for which he pays £350 a month.

The adviser: Philippa Gee is managing director of Gee & Co, fee-based independent financial advisers, Foresters Hall, 1a Wyle Cop, Shrewsbury, SY1 1UT, (01743 236982).

The advice: To begin with, I am concerned that your existing car payments take up more than 18 per cent of your net income. Not only will this continue for the next two years, but then an additional lump sum or new agreement will also be required. I would urge you to avoid upgrading to a more expensive car at that time.

While you see pension planning as a priority, I would advise you to consider the mortgage "conundrum" first, especially as you have already found a flat to buy.

You have two options: either take the builder's offer of a "free" 5 per cent deposit or take out a 100 per cent mortgage. You should remember that the 5 per cent "offer" might mean an inflated purchase price (you could run into problems when you come to sell) or by a special arrangement with a lender paying an introductory commission (you might find yourself locked into a deal with high interest rates, charges or penalties).

You should get an independent valuer to give their opinion on an appropriate purchase price for the flat.

If you were to opt for the 100 per cent mortgage, you are likely to face higher interest rates than if you had



In addition to buying his own flat, Simon Whiten wants to start a pension

Nicola Kurtz

a deposit. Using a capped-rate scheme as an example, where payments are guaranteed not to rise above a specified level, Royal Bank of Scotland offers a capped rate of 7.79 per cent until 2003 on a 100 per cent loan. This compares to a capped rate of 6.29 per cent to 2004 with Northern Rock if you had 5 per cent deposit.

Monthly costs on a capital repayment basis with the RBS scheme would be around £710 each month, virtually double your current rent.

In addition, you will need life cover, plus one-off costs including solicitors fees, valuation charge, mortgage arrangement fee and perhaps lender's indemnity insurance.

There could be a problem with your earnings which are comprised of salary and commission (not guaranteed). It will depend which lender you use. It might be prudent to delay the purchase for a number of months, see how the new job develops, boost your savings and then take an informed decision.

To begin with, you need to start some serious saving immediately. Set up a standing order from your current account to get the discipline in place and do this with a figure of at least £350 and ideally more, which will also help you decide how affordable a mortgage could be.

Standard Life Bank currently pays an excellent rate of 7.35 per cent on starting balances of £1 which compares to just 2.5 per cent offered by your existing deposit account.

You are concerned about provid-

ing for your pension, but while you want to begin investing premiums straight away, you will perhaps now appreciate the effect a mortgage will have on your overall plans.

I would suggest a realistic amount of £100 a month remembering this is money which will be effectively locked up until retirement.

After the probationary period, talk to your employer to see if they would be willing to pay a portion of your commission as a pension contribution straight into your pension plan.

This would save you National Insurance on the amount "sacrificed", as it will for your employer. To make it worthwhile you need to get your employers to top up the investment by their saving in National Insurance, thus boosting the amount paid in at no extra cost to either of you.

You feel you are quite a speculative investor (given the opportunity). You may want to consider a unit trust provider such as Gartmore, which gives access to a wide range of funds from a simple deposit or gilt fund to a variety of equity funds investing in the UK, Europe or further afield.

I would suggest you adopt a lower-risk profile at least initially and split the amount between two different funds to give you some diversification. Gartmore does allow pensions to be set up on a nil-commission basis, which would reduce the charges incurred on the money invested.

Your new employment contract provides no protection against ill-health above the statutory entitlement. There are various contracts available including those to protect a portion of your income if you were unable to work for a period of time, those which would pay out a lump sum on diagnosis of a serious illness and those to cover the costs of obtaining private medical treatment. I would suggest the mortgage issue should be addressed first so that we know what residual funds are available.

Once you have started saving and made decisions on both your mortgage and pension arrangements, you could then consider further plans. These should include investing a monthly sum into a TESSA, PEP or indeed an ISA (from April 1999) to provide a balance between short-term cash and long-term pension assets. There is however, little point in starting a contract now, only to have to pull out of it after a matter of months.

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Ancient tablets with a price tag

Mesopotamian inscriptions on clay dating back thousands of years are proving popular at auction. John Windsor reports

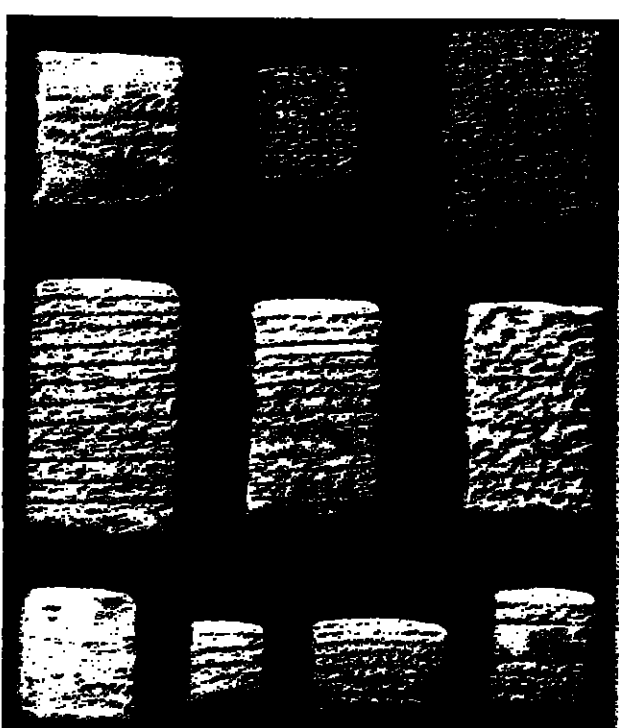
Nearly 4,000 years ago, in what is now Iraq, King Siniddinam dredged the Tigris and had his exploit recorded in cuneiform – "wedge-shaped" – script on a five-inch hollow clay cylinder. It records that he paid each man a daily wage of "1 gur of barley, 2 sila of bread, 4 sila of beer, 2 shekels of oil. I let no man have either less or more". He was proud of what he had done: "By the command and decision of the great gods, I restored the Tigris, the broad river, and established my name for far-off, distant days".

His wish was granted. The clay cylinder, with his name clearly on it, sold for £10,925 at Christie's in April this year. Less grandiose, cheaper cuneiform tablets from ancient Mesopotamia, dating from 3000BC to the fourth century BC, crop up frequently at auction.

On Wednesday, Christie's antiquities sale is offering among other cuneiform clay tablets, at an estimated £450-£550 each, a legal document from Old Babylon of about the 18th century BC (three tablets) and a neo-Babylonian administrative text (eight tablets) of the early 6th century BC.

Translated by a retired academic, the administrative tablet brings to life across the centuries a part payment for a field, witnessed by five people, receipts for flour, and an agreement to pay 85 men for a day's work.

Cuneiform tablets were a little-known collectable until the big collection of Hans Erlenmeyer, Professor of Chemistry at the University of Basel, fetched £93,000 at Christie's 10 years ago. Part of the fascination is that many scholars hold Mesopotamia to have been the cradle of civilization.



Cuneiform tablets were once a little-known collectable

Its people – squat, bearded and with bulbous noses, according to their own stone carvings – have been credited with inventing writing, cosmology, moral ideas, besides the concept that we now know as "the job".

Since the Erlenmeyer collection provoked such heavy bidding, prices have settled down, and you can now buy for under £500 clay cuneiform tablets, about 5in by 4in in size, recording everyday "jobs" that were agreed back in the third millennium BC – the herding of goats and cattle into the temples, job-sheets allotting work harvesting, maintaining irrigation, chopping wood, tanning skins, and records of tools issued to craftsmen.

The cuneiform script, made by pressing the end of a reed into the clay, may look impos-

sibly difficult to decipher, especially as it is written from right to left and has to be turned through 90 degrees before it is read. But it is founded on simple principles: each combination of little wedges represents a sound or word that evolved from a pictogram.

There is no grammar. So you can learn to recognise the Sumerian or Akkadian languages' cuneiform symbols for an ox or barley.

The cuneiform script itself has evolved over the millennia. It is identified by the names given to archaeological levels excavated at Uruk, the Biblical Ur, the first city: Uruk IV and III, which span the dates 3300 to 2900 BC.

About 85 per cent of the transactions recorded at Ur are economic. An Ur III cuneiform tablet, estimated at

2600-2800 in Christie's sale next week, has 33 lines of Sumerian text from the reign of King Shulgi, 2050BC, which records seed barley and oil for use as cultic offerings in the temple.

One of the commonest names that crops up in cuneiform is that of the Biblical King Nebuchadnezzar: he had it cast on every temple brick, a habit adopted by Saddam Hussein. One such clay brick, inscribed with seven lines of cuneiform, is in Bonhams' sale on Tuesday, estimated £200-£1,000.

The same sale also has a fine Old Babylonian cylinder seal (1900-1700BC) showing a bearded god wearing a deep-brimmed hat and robe, holding a cup, with a goddess at his side. It bears the name of its owner: "Salum, scribe, son of Eabegai". Estimated price: £6,500-£7,000.

Beginners need to watch out for script added later in an attempt to enhance value. Bonhams have put "some re-cutting" in the catalogue note of an Akkadian shell cylinder seal with gods, moon and a star of 2300-2200BC. It is still estimated at £1,600-£1,800.

The London dealer Chris Martin sells clay tablets and cylinder seals for £125-£500 depending partly upon condition. His latest catalogue offers for £450 a complete clay legal document in Sumerian of 2040 BC, 21in long, relating to the purchase for three shekels of a female slave called Damqa. She lived four millennia ago but those little jabs of reed on clay have ensured that her name is not forgotten.

Antiquities, Christie's, Wednesday (10.30am) (0171-389 2111). Antiquities, Bonhams, Tuesday (11am) (0171-393 3945). Chris Martin (0181-882 1509/4359)

Shop without leaving home

USE OF the Internet has more than doubled in the UK in the last two years. According to ICL's report, *The Lifestyle Revolution*, 24 per cent of British respondents now use the Internet, compared with only 11 per cent in 1996.

Many of us remain mildly technophobic, although, by comparison with people across the USA, Germany, France and Sweden, Britons are apparently more accepting of technology in banking. Indeed, Britain was the only country in which automated machines were preferred to humans.

Does this, however, say more about the humanity of one's bank manager than it does about the quality of automated services offered by the banks?

The survey showed that almost 60 per cent of all those questioned said that worries about security would deter them from using the Internet for banking or shopping. But an almost equal number declared their willingness to try these services out, thus demonstrating some confusion about how



INTERNET INVESTOR
ROBIN AMLÖT

transactions on the net actually work.

Across the Atlantic, some 17 million Americans conduct all or part of their financial affairs online, according to a recent study of "interactive consumers" by Cyber Dialogue. Of these, 4.5 million also trade online. In fact about 16 per cent of all trades in the US are now online – double 1997's figure. Transactions via the net are more secure than making credit card purchases over the telephone. Which brings me to the opening of the last of

the big out-of-town shopping centres, the Trafford Centre in Manchester. There will be no more such centres because, in the very near future, we will not need to travel to shop.

This month, Wedgwood, Rolls-Royce and Bentley entered cyberspace, promoting their goods on Buckingham Gate, the Internet shopping mall, operated jointly by ICL and NatWest. Buckingham Gate is targeted at international users. In fact, the site is the first in the world to allow secure multi-currency credit card payments. Other retailers on Buckingham Gate include Church's shoes, Penhaligon's perfumes, Tyrone crystal, Arthur Price cutlery and the Chewton Glen Hotel.

Or you can turn to Enterprise City, a service designed to help you find online stores quickly and simply. Each store listing is accompanied by a brief description, which informs shoppers of the type of products they can expect to find. Anyone new to the Internet, or still worried about the security

implications of e-commerce, should read Enterprise City's five-part guide to web shopping.

The newest financial site is the Worldly Investor. It claims to be an online global investing community in which active individual investors can navigate the world of global investments, financial news and information. The site is aimed unashamedly at relatively well-heeled US investors. This is not really surprising. The managing editor of Worldly Investor is Grant Perry, a former presenter of CNN's *World Business Today*, and its Senior Editor, Jeremy Pink, is former deputy news editor of Wall Street Journal Television.

The site is free to access and aims to provide, as well as news, reports on trends in global investing, and the implications of political and economic developments for international investors.

Buckingham Gate: www.buckinghamgate.com
Enterprise City: www.enterprise-city.co.uk
Worldly Investor: www.worldlyinvestor.com

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BEST BORROWING RATES

Telephone number	% Rate and period	Min. amt	Fee	Incentive
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MORTGAGES

FIXED RATES

Northern Rock	0845 805 0500	4.59% to 1.101	95%	£405	No MP for rate up to 65%
Shelford Bank	0800 216121	5.79% to 1.12.01	90%	£295	
Hallifax	0800 101110	6.25% to 31.12.02	95%	£295	No MP

VARIABLE DISCOUNTED RATES

Prudential BS	0800 163817	4.65% to 1.11.00	90%	£295	No high lending fee
Northern Rock	0800 202010	6.45% to 3 years	90%	£295	No high lending fee
Country BS	0345 865322	6.95% to 30.0.03	90%	£295	No MP for rate up to 65%

FIRST TIME BUYERS FIXED RATES

Hallifax	0800 101110	4.95% to 31.12.02	90%	£195	No high lending fee (up to 65%)
Northern Rock	0845 805050	5.85% to 31.12.02	90%	£405	No MP for rate up to 65%
Shelford Bank	0800 133149	6.15% for 5 years	95%	£295	

FIRST TIME BUYERS VARIABLE DISCOUNTED RATES

Country BS	0345 865322	4.35% to 30.0.03	90%	£295	No MP for rate up to 65%
Hallifax	0800 101110	6.50% to 31.12.02	90%	£405	No high lending fee
Northern Rock	0800 202010	7.25% for 5 years	95%	£295	Refund of valuation fee

PERSONAL LOANS

Unsecured	Telephone	APR %	Fixed monthly payments on £5K over 2 yrs
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Northern Rock	0845 421421	9.9% H	£183.14	£182.50
Direct Line	0181 680 9966	12.0% A	£183.75	£183.28
Royal Bank of Scotland	0800 121125	12.0%	£188.15	£188.38

SECURED LOANS (SECOND CHARGE)

Telephone	APR	When CVT	Advance	Term
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Clydesdale Bank	0800 240024	9.5%	Reg	£2K to £15K	5 cuts to 25 years
Chartered Bank	01222 596000	9.9%	100%	£20K to £25K	1-7 years
Barclays Bank	via local branch	10.8%	80%	£10K to £75K	5-25 years

OVERDRAFTS

Telephone	Account	% per	APR	% per	APR
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Alliance & Leicester	0500 059595	Alliance	0.95%	12.80%	2.00%
Northern Rock	0800 202010	Fixed/overdraw	0.97%	12.30%	2.10%
Hallifax	0800 751774	Bank	1.00%	13.90%	2.20%

CREDIT CARDS

Telephone	Card Type	Rate % per	APR %	Annual Fee	Inc. term	Min. income
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Capital One Bank	0800 080000	Visa	0.565% N	£9.95 N	54 days	£5K
RBS Advanta	0800 077770	Visa	0.64% N	7.50% N	56 days	£5K
Northern Rock	0800 202010	Visa	0.65% N	8.50% N	52 days	£5K

GOLD CARDS

Capital One Bank	0800 822 5252	Visa	0.565% N	£9.95 N	54 days	£5K
Co-operative Bank	0845 812211	Base Rate Visa	0.63%	12.25%	£120	46 days
RBS Advanta	0800 077770	Visa	0.64% N	7.50% N	56 days	£5K

STORE CARDS

Telephone	Payment by direct debit	Payment by other methods
-----------	-------------------------	--------------------------

John Lewis	Via store	1.29%	18.0%	1.39%	18.0%
Debenhams	Via store	1.95%	26.0%	2.15%	26.0%
Marks & Spencer	01444 651081	1.87%	26.3%	2.07%	27.0%

A - Minimum age 22 yrs. Holders of comprehensive motor insurance policy or lender's existing customer.
APR - Annualised percentage rate.
AGU - Accident, sickness and unemployment insurance.
B+C - Buildings and contents insurance.
H - Higher rate applies if insurance not arranged.
DIV - Loan to value.
MP - Mortgage indemnity premium.
N - Introductory rate for a limited period.
U - Unemployment insurance.
* If completion is before 30.09.98.
All rates subject to change without notice.
Source: MONEYFACTS 01603 478476

17 Sept 1998

BEST SAVINGS RATES

Telephone number	Account	Interest or bonus	Deposit	Rate %	Term/interval
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INSTANT ACCESS

Dynastyle Bank	0800 445265	Savings	Instant	£1	6.75% 0%
Woolwich	0800 222220	Current	Instant	£50	6.75% 0%
Standard & Gordon BS	0845 453553	Branch Instant	Instant	£100	6.00% 0%
Leeds & Hallam BS	0800 225777	Personal Access	Instant	£5,000	7.00% 0%

INSTANT ACCESS POSTAL ACCOUNTS

Northern Rock	0500 323010	InstantDirect	Postal	£1	7.40% 0%
O & A	0800 742427	Instant Transfer	Instant (IT)	£1,000	7.50% 0%
Safeway	0800 399225	Direct Savings	Instant (IS)	£2,500	7.55% 0%
SAGA (for over 50s)	0800 514513	Postal Savings	Postal	£10,000	7.50% 0%

NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS

Royal Bank of Scotland	0800 822053	Fixed Plus	30 Day (FP)	£2,500	7.50% 0%
Standard Life Bank	0345 555557	50 Day Notice	50 Day (TN)	£1	7.50% 0%
Country BS	0345 865322	Fixed 50	50 Day (FP)	£40,000	8.00% 0%
Leeds & Gordon Bank	0800 112200	50 Direct	50 Day (IS)	£10,000	8.00% 0%

CHEQUE ACCOUNTS

Investment Bank (IB)	0171 203 1650	AGCA 5000	Instant	£5,000	6.00% 0%
AMC Bank	0181 447 2040	AGCA	Instant	£5,000	6.75% 0%
Hallifax	0113 236 6220	Classic Rewards	Instant	£10,000	5.70% 0%
Chelsea BS	0800 429429	Classic Rewards	Instant	£10,000	5.95% 0%

FIXED RATE BONDS

Sun Bank	01438 744505	Guaranteed Investment 6 Month	£1,000	7.25% F	Monthly
Investment Bank (IB)	0171 203 1650	Year Bond	1 Year	£2,000	7.50% F
Country BS	0345 865322	1 Year Fixed Bond	1 Year	£10,000	7.60% F
First Bank	0800 373191	Fixed Rate	2 Year	£2,500	7.35% F

FIRST TESSAS

Norwich & Portsmouth	0800 883322	5 Year	£100	6.25% F	Year
Cheltenham	01225 955388	5 Year	£1,000	6.25% F	Year
Prudential BS	01222 344188	5 Year	£2,500	6.25% F	Year
Lambeth BS	0800 225221	5 Year	£5,000	6.10% F	Year

FOLLOW-ON TESSAS

Barclays Bank	0800 420100	5 Year	£1,000	6.50% F	Year
Sun Bank	01438 744505	5 Year	£2,000	6.25% F	Year
Norwich & Portsmouth	0800 883322	5 Year	£100	6.25% F	Year
Chelsea BS	0800 429429	5 Year	£1,000	6.25% F	Year

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS (net)

Prudential Insurance	0181 207 9007	1 Year	£3,000	5.15% F	Year
ITL London & Edinburgh	01903 800800	2 Year	£3,000	5.40% F	Year
ITL London & Edinburgh	01903 800800	3 Year	£3,000	5.35% F	Year
ITL London & Edinburgh	01903 800800	4 Year	£3,000	5.25% F	Year
ITL London & Edinburgh	01903 800800	5 Year	£3,000	5.40% F	Year

OFFSHORE ACCOUNTS (gross)

Offshore International	01634 681158	Capital Wise Direct	Instant	£10,000	7.60% 0%
Offshore & West Ltd	01179 807072	Instant Access	Instant	£50,000	7.65% 0%
Yorkshire Building Society Ltd	01481 710150	Offshore Easy	60 Day	£5,000	7.45% 0%
Firstshore Bank Ltd	01481 710400	60 Day Notice	60 Day	£10,000	7.80% 0%

NATIONAL SAVINGS ACCOUNTS (gross)

Investment Accounts	1 Month	£20	5.00% F	Year
	2 Month	£500	5.25% F	Year
	3 Month	£2,500	5.70% F	Year
	4 Month	£10,000	6.20% F	Year
	5 Month	£25,000	6.45% F	Year
	6 Month	£50,000	7.00% F	Year
	7 Month	£75,000	7.25% F	Year
	8 Month	£100,000	7.50% F	Year
	9 Month	£125,000	7.75% F	Year
	10 Month	£150,000	8.00% F	Year
	11 Month	£175,000	8.25% F	Year
	12 Month	£200,000	8.50% F	Year

Income Bonds

Capital Bonds Series L	5 Year	£100	6.00% F	Year
FRST Open Bonds	12 Month	£1,000	6.75% F	Year
	24 Month	£20,000	7.00% F	Year

Personal Guaranteed Income Bond Series S

48th Issue (tax free)	5 Year	£500	8.10% F	Year
12th Issue-Limited (tax free)	5 Year	£100	4.00% F	Year
Children's Bonds Series J (tax free)	5 Year	£100	2.25% F	Year
	5 Year	£25	6.00% F	Year

All rates are shown gross and are subject to change without notice.

Source: MONEYFACTS 01603 478476

17 Sept 1998

LOOSE CHANGE

FUND MANAGER M&G is launching a new corporate bond PEP which aims to take advantage for the first time of the high-yield corporate bond market. The PEP aims to deliver an income of 8 per cent, with the potential for some capital growth. The High Yield Corporate Bond PEP will have no initial charges but a sliding scale of withdrawal fees in the first five years. Call 0800 3898601.

NATWEST LIFE is extending the terms of its Guaranteed Capital Bonds, despite recent volatility in the market which has prompted some providers to withdraw planned launches. The bonds have two fixed terms, 3.5 and 5.5 years. They are linked to the FTSE-100 and will deliver up to 130 per cent or 160 per cent of the FTSE's performance, or your money back if markets fall. Minimum investment is £5,000. Call 0800 255200.

LIVERPOOL VICTORIA is launching a Mutual Investment Bond, a with-profits bond that invests in a mixture of shares, gilts, property and cash. No initial charges or policy fees are levied, while Liverpool Vic guarantees that if the bond price has not grown in the first year, the society will make up the difference. Investments above £10,000 receive an additional allocation of 1 per cent rising in stages to 2 per cent for investments above £50,000. Existing members receive an extra 1 per cent allocation. Charges are 0.125 per cent a month, falling to 0.05 per cent after five years. Call 0800 550055.

CANADA LIFE is launching a high-income bond offering 8 per cent free of basic rate tax. Bonuses of up to 0.6 per cent are available on investments before October 6 1998. The five-year bond matures in January 2004. Its maturity value depends, however, on the performance of the FTSE-100 over a four-year period up to December 6 2003, with the index averaged over the last six months. Details are available from independent advisers. Call 0117 9711177 for details of advisers near you.

WOOLWICH UNIT Trust Managers (WUTM) is offering a 2 per cent discount on investments into its stockmarket and international managed funds between now and the end of October. For a customer planning to invest the full £6,000 PEP allowance, this means a saving of £120 off the normal charge of 5 per cent. Details from any Woolwich branch, or call WUTM on 0345 626382.

STAFFORDSHIRE BUILDING Society is launching a one-year fixed rate bond paying 7.25 per cent gross. The bond will allow a penalty-free switch of up to £3,000 into a Staffordshire cash ISA at any time after April 6 1999, when Individual Savings Accounts come into being. The minimum balance is £2,500, with a maximum investment of £500,000. Call 01902 317318.

CHARTWELL INVESTMENT Management, a financial adviser, is offering an immediate bonus of up to 5 per cent on any bonus bought through the firm. The bonus is available because Chartwell rebates the initial commission of 5 per cent. The money can either be added to the investment or paid separately. The firm is also offering readers of *The Independent* a free copy of its *With Profit Bond Guide*, which explains how they work and which ones may be most suitable. Call 01225 446556.

Advertisement Feature

It's worth shopping around
for mortgage protectionProtect the roof over
your family's head

Mortgage protection is one of the most straightforward and affordable types of life insurance cover. It's designed to pay off your mortgage if you die - and so protect the roof over your family's head.

Buying your own home will probably be your biggest investment, so having cover that provides a tax-free sum to repay your mortgage if you die will certainly give you great peace of mind. In fact, most mortgage lenders will insist you have life insurance. But you don't have to accept their offer of cover. Like many things in life, it could really pay to shop around before you buy.

For instance, you could take a look at Zurich Municipal's mortgage protection policy. Part of Europe's third largest insurance group, they can arrange cover for you from just £5 a month. It's all done over the phone in minutes. Their policies provide great value for money and they don't pay their staff commission - which means no pressurised selling. And just by working in the public sector, you are entitled to a special 15% discount.

When Graham Powell, who has a career in the public sector, changed from an endowment to a repayment mortgage, he was required to take out mortgage protection. After receiving a quote from his mortgage lender, Graham decided to phone around for some alternative look at Zurich Municipal's quotes. He was delighted to discover that he could save

nearly £90 a year if he took out the policy with Zurich Municipal. Over the 18-year period of cover, this certainly adds up to a significant saving.

Graham, from Corsham, Wiltshire, is married to Jane and has a young son, Tom. With a busy lifestyle, he found taking out a policy with Zurich Municipal extremely easy. He says: "The person on the end of the phone was very friendly and efficient, and the quote only took a few minutes. I was also very happy to discover I could have a 15% discount because of my job, which meant the premium was the cheapest one I found. I would certainly recommend Zurich Municipal to my friends and family."

From the tables you can see for yourself how economical it is to choose Zurich Municipal for mortgage protection.

SUM ASSURED

AGE	£50,000	£75,000
25	£5.15	£6.72
35	£6.55	£8.83
45	£12.21	£17.31

SUM ASSURED

AGE	£50,000	£75,000
25	£7.19	£9.78
35	£8.13	£11.19
45	£17.86	£25.78

Examples shown include public sector discount. Monthly premiums are dependent on a number of factors and in particular are higher for males, smokers and older ages. Cover and premiums are subject to individual assessment.

Apart from mortgage protection, Zurich Municipal also offers term assurance, which provides straight life cover without any connection to your mortgage. They can also cover you for critical illness, so that you would receive a lump sum if one of a range of specific illnesses was diagnosed.

All round, Zurich Municipal is well worth considering for insurance cover. Why not phone them on 0800 147 147 - it's free. Their helpful staff are ready to take your call from 9am to 8pm Monday to Friday, and 9am to 1pm on Saturdays. Please quote the reference IND1909.



Please note that for your security, all telephone calls on the above number will be recorded and monitored.

Zurich Municipal is a trading name of Zurich Life Assurance Company Limited, which is regulated by the Financial Services Authority for life assurance and investment business. Zurich Municipal markets life products of Zurich Life only and does not provide financial advice. Zurich Life Assurance Company Ltd is registered in England, No 17

Talking up a bear market

IT IS FUNNY how quickly sentiment in a market can change. If we are not yet in rampant bear market mood, we seem to be heading that way fast.

Suddenly, everywhere we look there seems to be bad news. This week President Clinton himself, temporarily (at least) still the most powerful leader in the world, took time off from his local difficulties to inform us that we are facing the worst potential financial crisis since the Second World War.

On Monday the leaders of the G7 nations discussed how best to confront the real risk of a financial meltdown and George Soros, no less, warned that the capitalism itself was at risk from the current upheavals in Russia and the Far East.

Nearer home, the so-called "flight to quality" in financial markets continues. It was marked this week by the yield on UK gilts falling to their lowest level in 30 years. Even though bonds issued by our Government now are priced to yield little more than 5 per cent, they continue to look attractive to global investors looking for a safe haven from perceived risks in most emerging markets. (Brazil, South America's largest economy, this week became the latest country to face a potential market collapse).

In fact, an interesting thing is happening to the gilt market. Even though we have been living through the greatest bull market in stocks this century, gilts - long a pariah by comparison - have actually been producing as good, if not better, returns. As my chart shows, the total returns produced by gilts and equities over the last nine years have actually been pretty similar.

Against the long term historical record, and in a country where inflation is consistently higher than in many other of our peers, this is positively startling. The long run trend is for equities to produce substantially higher real returns than gilts - 7 per cent against around 2 per cent over the past 50 years. The assumption



THE
JONATHAN
DAVIS
COLUMN

The spectre striding the globe is deflation. And the more we debate it the closer it comes

that shares are the better bet continues to underpin investment strategy. But in a disinflationary world, it has proved to be an unreliable assumption.

Government bonds are a traditional haven for investors when economic contraction threatens. The spectre which is striding the globe is clearly one of real deflation - a world in which the value of money declines from one year to the next. It now seems clear that interest rates in the United States and this country have peaked. The issue now is whether we are yet at the point when Mr Greenspan decides it is necessary to start cutting interest rates aggressively.

The more the world debates this issue, the greater the risk of course that it will take place. As the elegant American financial writer John Rothchild advises in his brilliantly-timed new book about bear markets, the best thing an investor can do is to switch off the TV and chuck away the newspaper. That way at least, you don't get contaminated by the self-propelling momentum of a market feeding on its own anxiety.

Most advice that comes out of professional investment houses at such times sounds as certain and self-confident as ever, but masks a fundamental

and painful fact: that nobody actually knows how long and how deep the current changes in economic reality and market sentiment are going to be. That leaves the way clear for the market to be driven by gut feelings rather than logic.

An obvious response to gathering market gloom is to do what investors around the world are now doing, to pull money out of riskier assets - which include emerging markets and equities generally - and switch into bonds and cash.

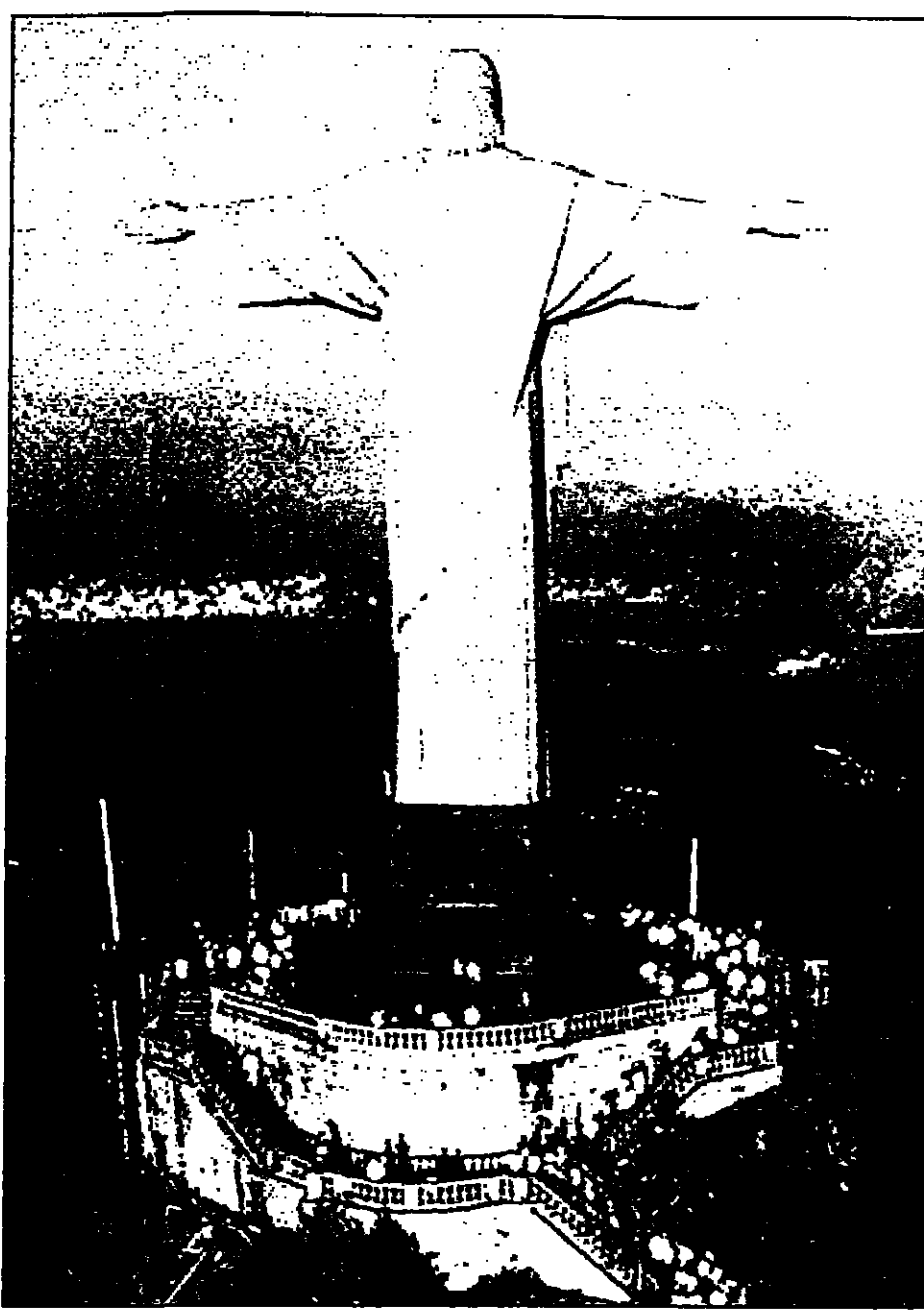
Anyone who plumped for cash over shares in 1966 might have looked foolish four years later, but not so dumb for most of the rest of the succeeding 20 years. In fact, it would have taken until 1986 for the guy who stuck with shares in 1966 finally to overtake the cautious cash saver.

The case for bonds is more complex historically. Sometimes they prove a better home than shares when bear markets develop; sometimes they are a lot worse. A lot depends on inflation. If it resurfaces, as it did horrendously in the 1970s, bonds of all sorts get taken to the channel house.

If it is dead or dormant, then bonds can show equities a clean pair of heels for a while. That is clearly the scenario which seems most appropriate today. On that view, there is still scope for gilts yields to fall further, remarkable though that would be.

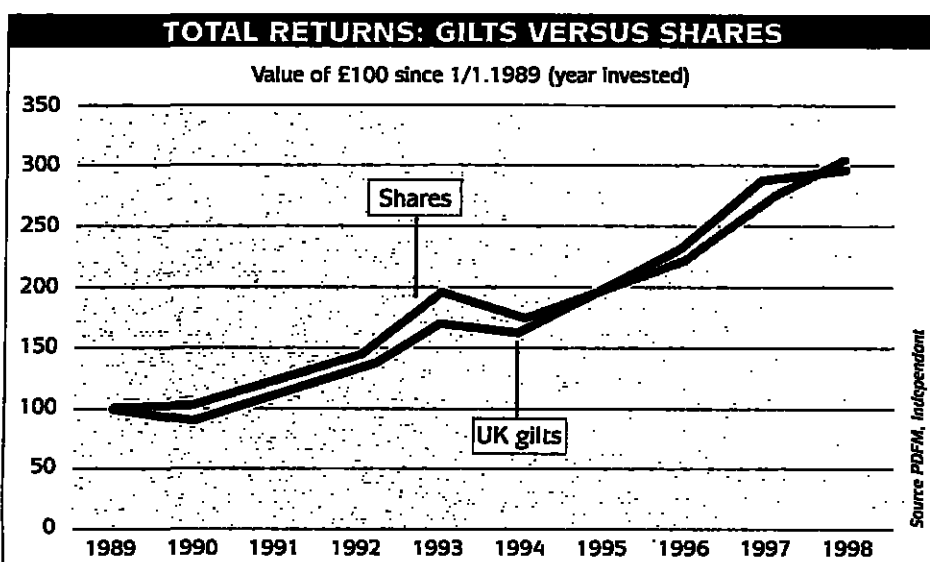
I notice that Crispin Odey, one of the UK's best hedge fund managers, is expecting Europe's stock markets to come off by 30 per cent, then rally, then fall sharply again. Most bear markets, he says, retrace half the gains they have made since the bull market began, and a really bad one loses 50 per cent of what has previously been gained. 1995, he concludes, is going to be "a difficult year" for anyone expecting to demonstrate their bull market skills. I agree.

The Bear Book: Survive and Profit in Ferocious Markets by John Rothchild (John Wiley)



Brazil, the latest economy to face collapse

Michael Friedel/Rex



New code calls banks to account

Banks are paying the price for moving accounts without informing customers. By Kirsty Greenwood

THERE IS nothing so frustrating as being promised something, only to find that the pledge made is not being kept. Even worse is the realisation that, not only are things no better than before, the person making the original promise has actually made them worse - without telling you first.

Banks are among the worst offenders. For years, they have wooed new customers by offering exceptionally high rates of interest. Then, once the account is opened, the rate slips steadily downwards, without the punter even being informed what is happening.

This resembled a recent

case at Northern Rock, the former building society, which angered many of its account holders by switching them into new accounts with different notice periods and, often, different rates of interest.

The Rock claimed its move was caused by the need to "rationalise" its various accounts. But many customers argued that their terms had effectively been worsened by the changes. The row even led to the Treasury announcing that it would be investigating the issue.

The British Bankers' Association (BBA) stepped in this week with changes to its Bank-

ing Code, which aims to ensure that this kind of behaviour will not happen again.

Tim Sweeney, director general at the BBA, says: "The revised code deals vigorously with recent concerns voiced by the Treasury and others to make sure that customers... are not abandoned in uncompetitive accounts."

Under the revised code, when notifying customers of changes in interest rates, banks must state both the old and the new rate. This will make it easier for customers to know how the interest rate change has affected them.

The new code also claims to

ban "obsolete" accounts so that banks and building societies are required to maintain the interest rate on such accounts at the same level as similar newer accounts.

If a change is made to the notice period on a customer's account, banks and building societies will not apply it for at least 60 days if it is not in the customer's favour.

A "cooling off" period for new savings accounts will be introduced, giving customers 14 days to switch to another account or get their money back with interest, without a notice period or charges.

The changes have been

greeted with approval by consumer groups. Neil Walking, of the Consumers' Association, which recently published a report on obsolete accounts in *Which?* magazine, says he is pleased with the content of the new code.

But he points out that, when the code was last reviewed in March last year, the problem was meant to have been solved by ensuring that obsolete accounts would simply cease to exist. However, banks evaded the code's provisions by keeping accounts "live", lowering the interest paid on them and aggressively marketing new accounts with higher rates.

Mr Walking adds: "Any voluntary code is only effective if the banks try to apply it and not undermine it by trying to get around the code. In a few years we might be back where we were before."

The banking code was first introduced in March 1992 and is generally reviewed every two and a half to three years. Anger over Northern Rock sparked this week's update.

Roger Miles, a BBA spokesman, says: "The next review is planned for late next year, but if any section of the code is causing public concern the code is robust enough to be able to respond quickly."

Fixed-rate deals could be costly

Watch out for the mortgage 'lock-in'

WHAT PRICE that highly attractive fixed rate mortgage? According to the Office of Fair Trading, it could turn out to cost far more than you bargained for.

The OFT warned this week that borrowers lured by exceptionally cheap fixed-rate mortgage deals could find themselves locked in to paying extortionate variable rates later on. This is because some contracts lock people in for years after the fixed-rate period ends, during which lenders could charge whatever interest rate they choose.

An OFT spokesman says: "Mortgage contracts that give unrestricted power to a lender to vary terms for captive consumers create an imbalance which could be considered unfair (although we) are not opposed to mortgage agreements where borrowers are 'locked in'."

With the proper information customers might choose to pay more interest in the first place, thus avoiding the lock-in. The OFT says: "Borrowers should be given information, when they sign the contract, on how interest rates will be set in the future."

The OFT's warning is being taken by the mortgage industry as a sign that if it does not alter

its practices it could face a full-scale inquiry. The result could be to bring about tougher regulations for lenders at a time when it is already trying to give bite to its newly-introduced voluntary Code of Mortgage Practice. The OFT's warning may lead to many of the cheaper fixed-rate products being removed from the mortgage market, depriving borrowers of choice.

Michael Coogan, director general of the Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML), said: "We are concentrating on the issue of transparency." He argues that lenders are unlikely to try to punish borrowers by artificially raising rates at the end of the fixed period but says it is important that customers should be aware of the financial implications of lock-in periods.

The Government is currently examining the impact of the voluntary code, before deciding whether to make mortgages subject to statutory controls. However, the OFT stresses that it is not examining any specific contracts. Its staff will be talking talk to lenders about the "potential for unfairness".

KIRSTY GREENWOOD

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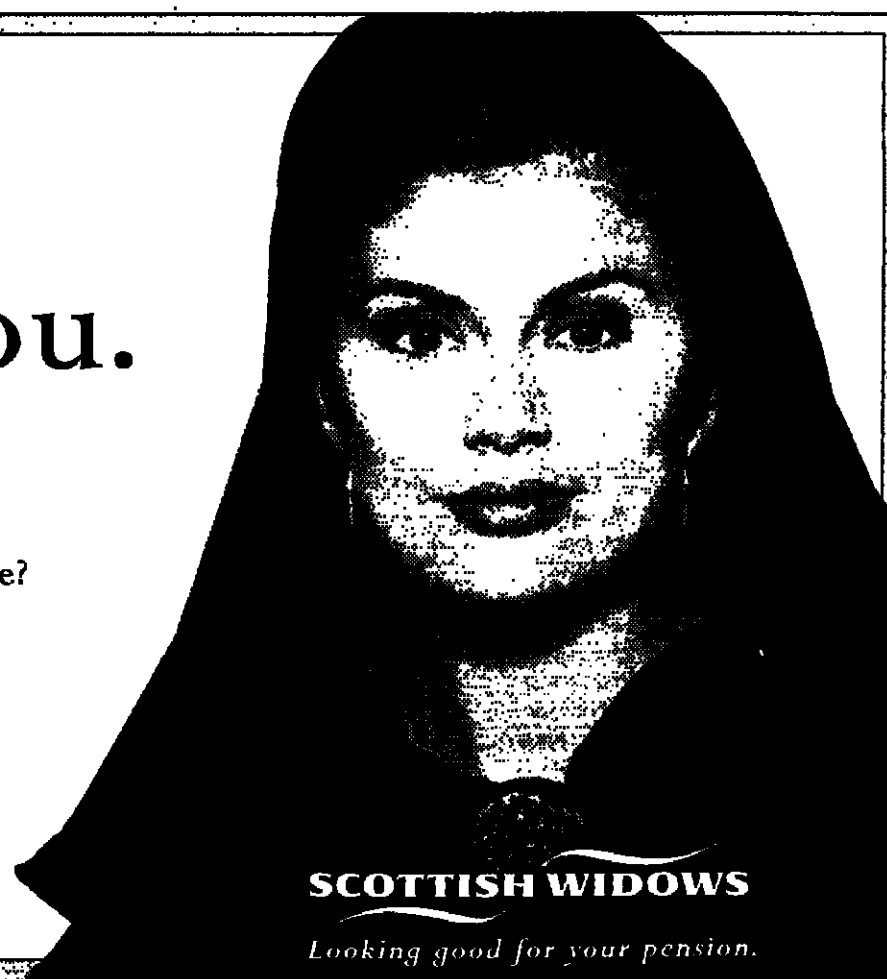
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You don't need a screw loose for a corking good collection

Apart from the crucial role it has in opening the odd bottle, the corkscrew is a highly prized item collected by eager fans.

By Sam Wallace

The Double Lever, the Wings on Rack and Pinion and the English Magic Lever all sound rather like instruments a 19th century surgeon might have used for his probing of the human body. They are actually all early models for corkscrews, which goes some way to explaining the distinctively Victorian delight in naming an object after its mechanics.

Since the early Seventies, corkscrews have become collectibles in their own right, and a forthcoming auction at Christie's South Kensington features the 300-strong Herbert Miles Collection of Corkscrews, which promises to include some real corkers.

Some of the most expensive items at Christie's are actually corkscrews that never really worked very well. In April of 1996, an 1842 Robert Jones II corkscrew set the record for a model with a registered design when it fetched £10,800 at auction. "It was an extremely rare piece, because it was not a successful model," explained Christie's specialist Dennis Cox. "There were only a few made, and the story goes that they simply stopped selling them."

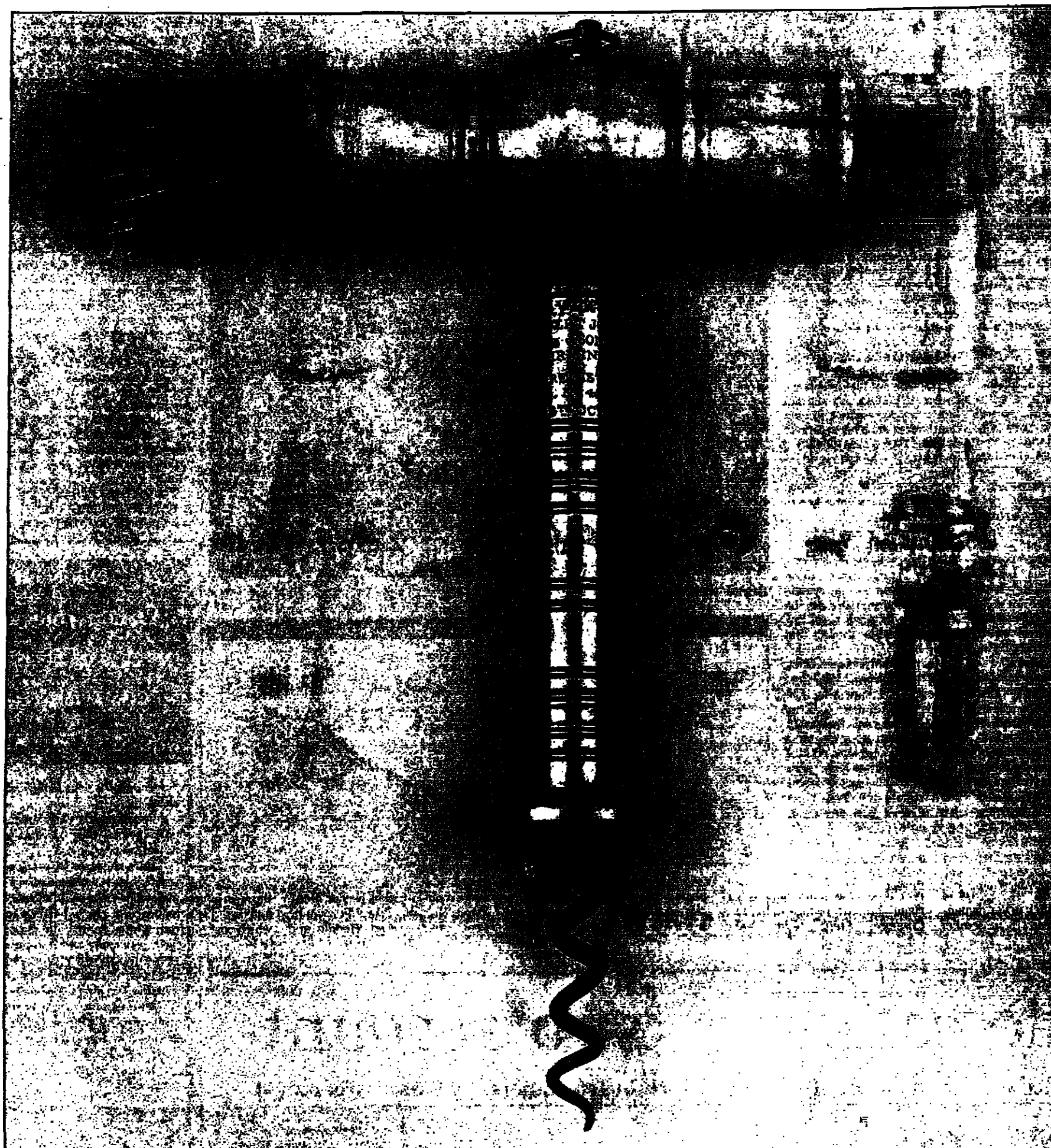
So what is it, other than rarity and incompetent design, that sets a corkscrew apart from the rest? One of Dennis Cox's personal favourites is a 19th century "straight pull" corkscrew, that he describes as a "modest functional piece". The handle is bone and the shank - the section between handle and "worm" - is baluster. The corkscrew's estimated selling price is around £180, but the auction itself, Cox maintains, will not be exclusively expensive, and aims to attract a wider crowd than just the big spenders.

The Christie's auction has a range of corkscrews that they expect to sell from £80 up to £5,000. There is a German celluloid coloured folding Lady's Legs pocket corkscrew, manufactured in 1894 by Steinfeld and Reiler, which should fetch between £200 and £300. The Lunds 1838 patent bottle grip corkscrew is the real prize of the collection, and could sell for between £4,000 and £5,000.

Until quite recently, corkscrew sales were the poor relations tacked on to the end of wine auctions. In May 1994, Christie's auctioned the Gianni Giachin Collection, and three years later the Dr Bernard Watney Collection broke the world record with an 18th century pocket silver corkscrew that sold for £18,400. The two Christie's auctions, on 22 September, have a special significance: they are timed to coincide with the 25th anniversary meeting of the International Correspondence of Corkscrew Addicts (ICCA), in London this month.

The ICCA was formed in 1974 by Dr Bernard Watney and Homer Babbidge, a college dean. Membership has grown to 50 and it has members from Britain, the US, and all over Europe. They include among their brethren Brother Timothy, a Christian priest who has been head of a Napa Valley winery in California for 54 years.

Joseph Paradi, a Canadian ICCA member, rates the forthcoming



Some of the exclusive corkscrews at the Christie's auction: Above: A Jones 1840 registered design corkscrew, estimated at £1,000 - £1,500. Right: A selection of carved Corozo Nut corkscrews, estimated at £150 - £200 each

Christie's auction as "in the top three or four" of corkscrew auctions. Paradi's own favourites are influenced by his profession: he is a lecturer in engineering at the University of Toronto.

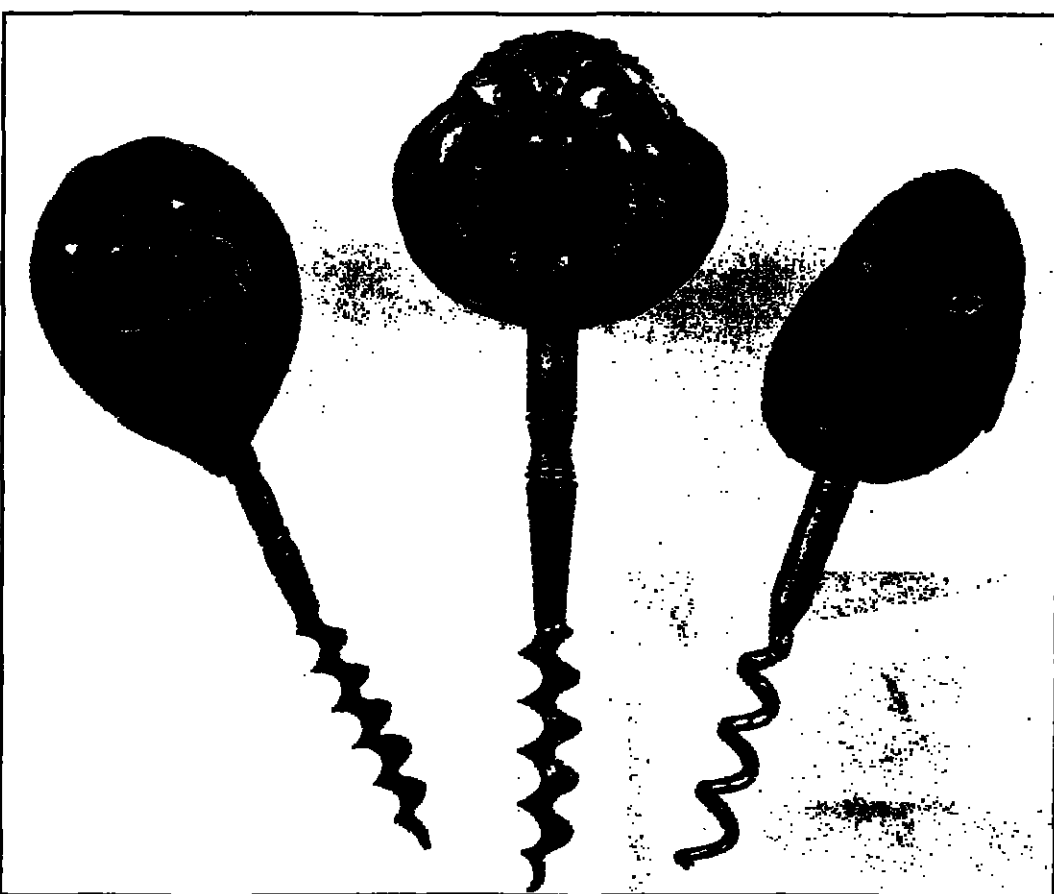
He explains to me the workings of one particular English corkscrew that operates like an old village well. "The corkscrew straddles the neck of the bottle and a rope on a crank pulls out the cork." All fascinating stuff, but where lies the real attraction in corkscrews?

Antique corkscrews, Paradi explains, come from "five major countries: Britain, France, Germany, Italy and the United States. If you look at the corkscrew, you can deduce from it something of the flavour of the country. The Italian corkscrew is often brass and ornate, while the English are very complex and mechanical. The German corkscrews are precise, and often use bearings, and the French have all kinds of weird things." And what of the American corkscrew? "Well, they really work, and they were made in their millions."

The ICCA is comprised of lawyers, doctors and accountants, as well as architects and locksmiths. The members are not just building collections but also, like Herbert Miles, safeguarding the future of these curious antiques. They pool their collective experience in dating and placing non-patented pieces and occasionally put the corkscrew to good use in its original purpose.

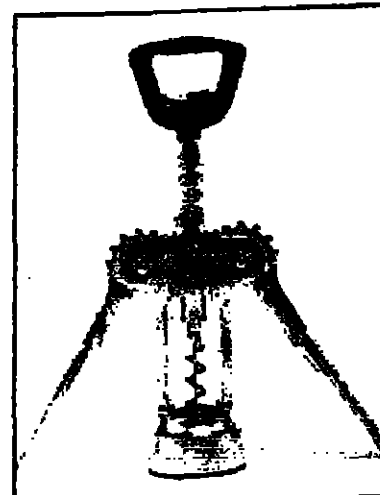
Consider the Wolverson's 1877 registered Holborn Champagne screw, estimated at £150-£200 at the Christie's auction. The device was designed as a champagne tap, which kept the sparkle in the bottle while drawing off individual glasses of champagne to be used as a health restorative. Champagne as medication? Now that really does sound like a good ruse.

The Herbert Miles Collection of Corkscrews is at 10.30am on 22 September, and will be followed by a separate corkscrew auction at 2pm. The auctions will be held at Christie's South Kensington.

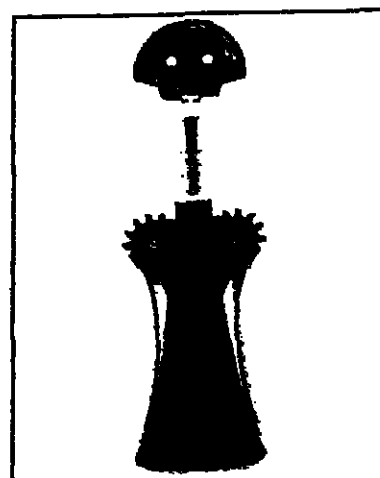


SIX OF THE BEST

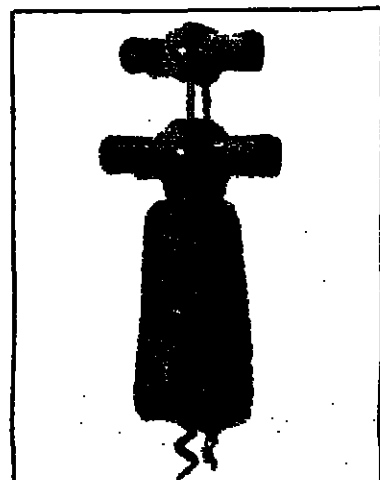
WAYS TO PULL OUT THE CORK



Profi Monopol long lever corkscrew, £32, House of Fraser (0171 963 2000)



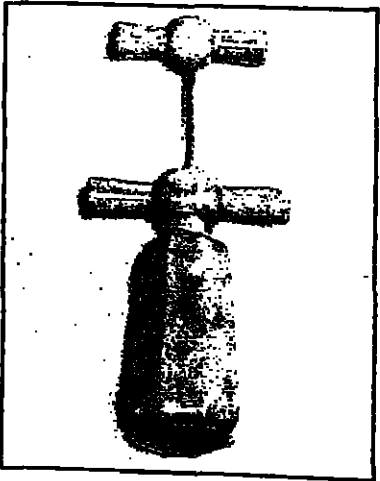
Alessi Anna corkscrew, £39.95, Ocean (0800 132 985)



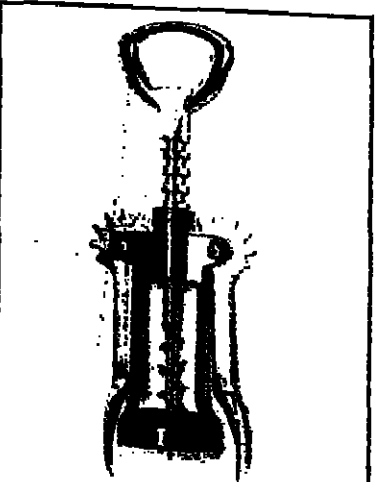
Wooden Corkscrew, £4.25, Divertimenti (0171-935 0689)



Lazyfish corkscrew, £19.95, Divertimenti (0171-935 0689)

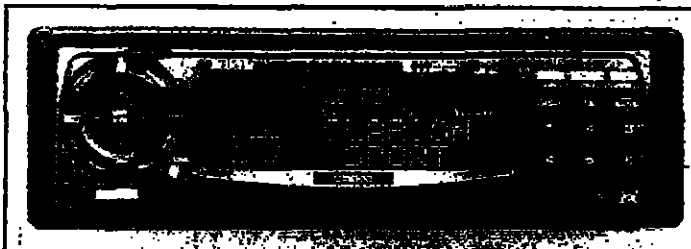


Wood and metal corkscrew, Divertimenti (0171-935 0689)



Corkscrew, £2.69 Tesco (505555)

SHOP TALK



PREPARE TO indulge in some serious shopping if you're passing through Heathrow this weekend. Europe's biggest hi-fi and home entertainment show - the HI-FI Show '98 - takes place today and tomorrow from 10am

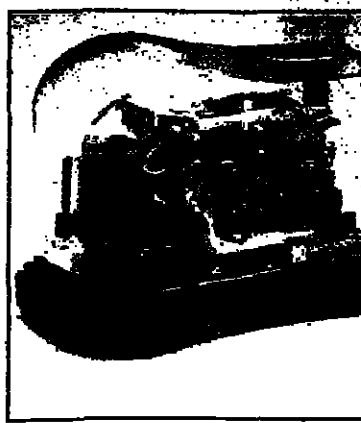
to 6pm at the airport's Renaissance and Excelstior hotels. Take the shuttle bus from Hutton Cross, on the Piccadilly Line, and the £4 entry charge will entitle you to browse through all the latest hi-fi technology.

GOOD THING



SCOFF WITH pride thanks to Fair Trade pasta. Every time you buy a bag, a Bolivian farmer profits. Endorsed by the TV cook, Ross Burden, the Bolivian pasta twirls cost £1.39 for a 500g bag from Oxfam (01865 313600 for nearest stockist) and are available in two varieties, plain and wholemeal. Both contain quinoa, the "sacred grain of the Inca" apparently, and they are ready to eat after just five minutes in boiling water.

MAD THING



CATCHING UP on your admin need not be a chore any longer. Improve your working environment for £12.99 by investing in a Rexel "staple wizard" from WH Smith (01793 616161) and attack those piles of filing with pleasure. The funky translucent stapler has a great shoot-em-up loading mechanism and an automatic stapling action that is so smooth you don't even have to touch a single button.

I WANT TO OWN... DINKY TOYS, KISS DOLLS AND A TRIANG RAILWAY SET

Toys for the boys

After rummaging in a box of used and abused toys on which 50p has been scrawled in blue felt tip, my four-year-old son emerges, triumphant, clasping a purple plastic car with The Joker at the wheel and a red motorbike with Robin astride it. To my untrained eye, both had a street value of 49p when they were used as McDonald's child-bait in 1993.

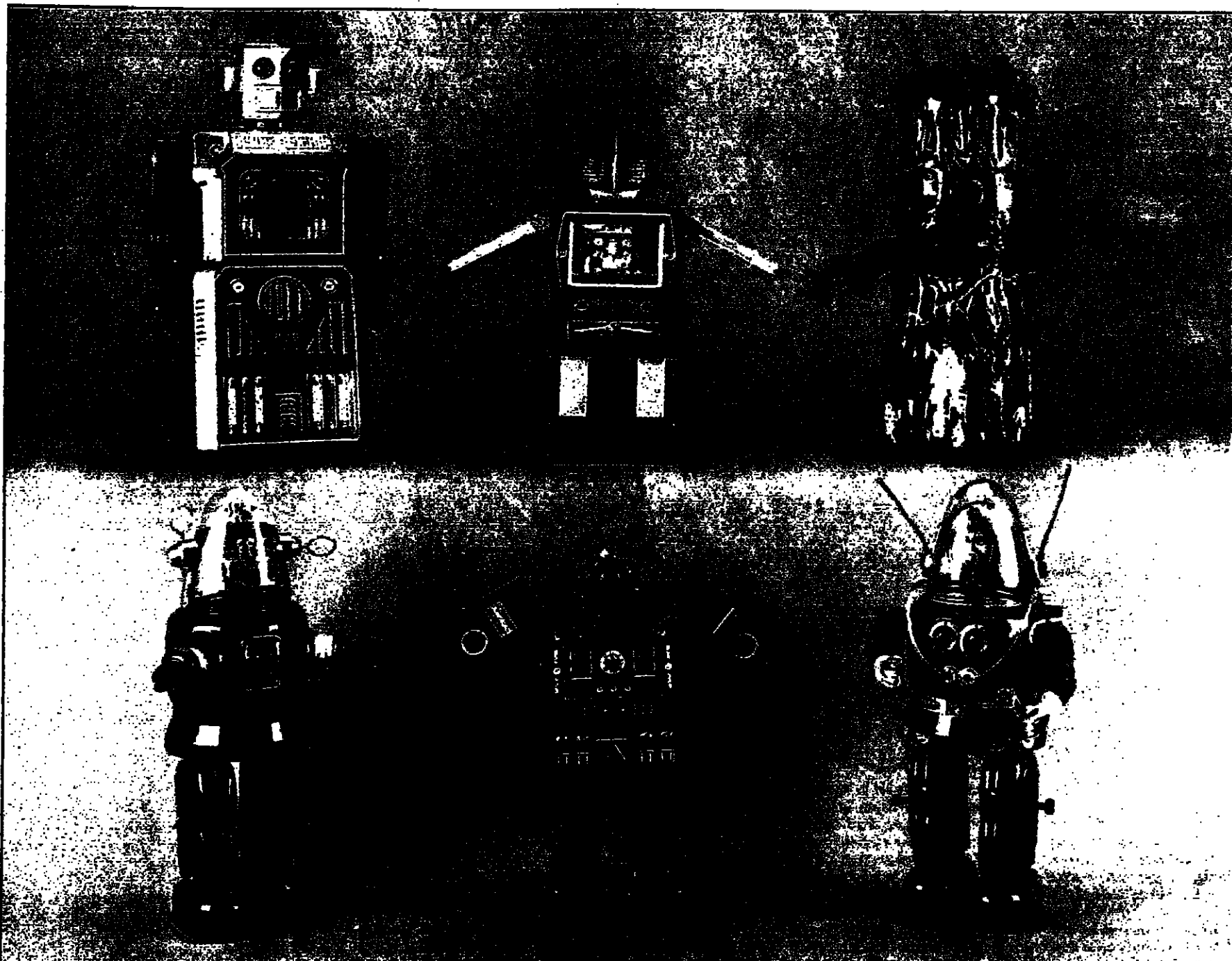
"Those are collector's items," I am informed by the smiling middle-aged owner of the car boot and his left detritus sprawled in front of us. "Or they would be if you had the whole set."

I am sceptical, but am happy enough to spend a quid for the five minutes of happiness it will impart. A fortnight later, I realise that I am more enamoured with the Robin motorbike than my son is. I am first won over by its mechanics. The three-wheeler is not only propelled forward, but manoeuvres randomly and magically when friction is applied to two black back wheels.

Plus, the green front wheel is colour-coordinated with its rider, who is dressed in his old school green and yellow circus outfit, rather than the vulcanised maroon to which he upgraded for Hollywood. I even like the clumsy big yellow R on the windshield but, more than anything else, I love Robin's unfathomable grin, and the fact that the Chinese worker who applied the finishing touches in white paint, bothered to put a delicate brush stroke between Robin's lips.

One of the great things about having children is that there is no shame involved in appreciating and playing with toys. When a friend turned up on our doorstep with a huge Millennium Falcon he'd been given, the joy I felt was not for my children but for myself. It was matched by the devastation when my offspring proceeded to wreck the said spacecraft in slightly less time than it had taken me to stick on the decals, while regaling them with how my parents had never been able to afford such luxuries when Star Wars first came to town.

The annoying thing about toys is that, when you can afford to pay half a day's wage for a piece of plastic with flashing lights and electronic gunship sounds, peer pressure and common sense dictate that you shouldn't be so foolish as to blow it on something so childish. Thus,



You spent many happy childhood hours with them, and now some of these Nomura Mechanised Robots are worth spending serious money on *Christie's Images*

the majority of the grown male population of Britain harbour secret yearnings for Star Wars toys or Scaletrix track they never owned.

I know I do. I can still remember my mate Tim Potter tinkering with the transformer of the latter and cursing over the worn brushes when they no longer made a good contact with the track, and the arguments over who would have the unpredictable Mini and who would have the more reliable Datsun.

Of course, they still make them a bit like they used to, but they're rarely as good - authentic detail is generally sacrificed for the sake of profit margins. I'm sure, for instance, that Hamleys stocks a Robie The Robot - or at least his cousin from *Lost In Space* - but not one that would come close to Nomura's 1956 "Mechanised Robot", a sleek, limbed, black-and-red sentinel with a transparent plastic dome in which battery-operated pistons pump.

This would look as good on your shelf as any antique, and Miller's *Toys & Games Antique Checklist* estimates it will set you back roughly £200-£500. It's not, though, the most expensive toy money can buy. If you want something which says "toy connoisseur/ricer kid", and have more than £10,000 to spend, then consider 19th century tin-plate toys.

Something like the George Brown & Co-manufactured "Charles" hose reel, a delicate, hand-painted carriage with two bronze bells, or a Cinnamon Steiff teddy bear: Christie's recently sold one for a record-breaking £110,000.

However, there seems some-

thing morally dubious about investing in a toy that will never get played with, and at best will be stored in a glass box under lock and key. If you want a toy that says something about you, rather than your bank balance, then get the one you've always wanted and then invite some pals over to play.

Recently, a friend confessed that he'd spent £100 on an original Subbuteo table-football game. When he showed me it, I knew his field of dreams was well worth the expense. It even inspired me to go home and root around in my mum and dad's loft.

What I found was, personally, worth more than a 1963 boxed Triang railway (£500), and a 1948 Aveling-Barford diesel roller (£500), and a 1956 Fisher-Price Pop-eye (£500), and a 1950 Dinky Toys Oldsmobile 6 Sedan (£500), put together.

In the attic, covered in dust, was my own Subbuteo. I'd forgotten the extent of my collection, and was shocked to discover that it was vast: a Test Match Edition Table Cricket game, with an extra box of West Indies players, an International Edition of table rugby, with a spare All Blacks team, and a Continental Club Edition of Table Soccer, in which were squeezed 16 teams, including England teams in

the old Admiral home and away kits: Spurs Away - the scrawled team sheet reads: Kendall, Naylor, McAllister, Holmes, Lacy, Perryman, Pratt, Ardiles, Lee, Hoddle and Taylor - and Arsenal Away, which I had sensibly repainted as Nottingham Forest.

Additional paraphernalia includes trophies, spectators, throw-in figures, flat-capped goalies and Set JJ, a ball-raising chute, which cost 15p from Whites Sports & Toys, and was never used in anger. Why? Because it was crap.

The game was last played with in 1979, the year when thinking about girls overcame the desire to flick-to-kick. How do I know? Because inside one of the boxes was a 1972 FA Cup centenary coin - Bolton Wanderers - similar to the Sainsbury World Cup '98 jobs, plus a Smiths crisps "Football Crazy" football league table for 1978/79, complete with all the team cards.

Incidentally, while I was researching this article, I happened upon a copy of Hake's *Price Guide To Character Toy Premiums* (Gemstone, £24.95), an almanac of toys sold in conjunction with burgers. There, in the Batman section, is my, or rather my son's, Robin on his bike. The price: \$100 (£50).

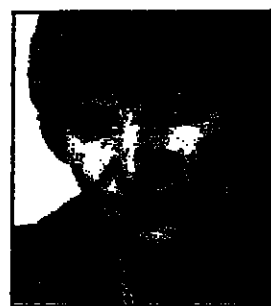
Just when I started thinking that this car-boot toy was the best investment I'd ever made, I noticed that the guide related, not to the actual toys, but to the plastic advertising panels used to promote them in-store. I didn't feel cheated, though. You can't play with a plastic panel, can you?

RELATIVE VALUES
THINK YOUR boxed Hornby might be worth a few quid? Well, your local book shop may well stock books giving estimated values of products, but these vary vastly according to condition, and whether you've been a sad case and kept the packaging. Some periodicals also provide estimated values of toys, including *Collectables* (£2.50), and *Collect It* (£1.95), which has a 'kids' section and a regular column dedicated to McDonald's offers. That tiny Dalmatian puppy with an umbrella? £45, assuming, that is, you never let your kids take it out of the packet. All prices given are estimates, and should only be used as a guide.

LIBBY PURVES, NOVELIST AND BROADCASTER

IF I WIN THE LOTTERY TONIGHT...

LIBBY PURVES, NOVELIST AND BROADCASTER



GIVEN UNLIMITED money I would build a sailing boat, about 42ft long, and incorporating every desire and quirk I have ever thought about in 25 years of sailing.

I would take my three brothers, their families, and as many friends as I could persuade for a riotous week at the Bitter End Yacht Club, on Virgin Gorda, in the darkest glummiest time of the year (February or March). This is a really good place because the sky is blue, the coral is bright, the trade wind blows, and they have all these boats ready on the beach for impulse sailing.

I would try to pay off my families' and friends' mortgages and debts, if they agreed, so we could all start out afresh, and make whole new financial messes of our lives.

I would go sailing, but it would not be a holiday so much as a round-the-world sailing trip in my new boat. I'd have to go to Pitcairn. And the Galapagos. And Tahiti. And follow Captain Cook round the Australian coastlines. And dodge the ice in Greenland.

If you have unlimited funds for travel, you might as well stay based at home near your friends. I might have some interesting holiday homes - a Venetian palazzo, a deserted castle - but would insist on them being used, maybe for school trips. I have a serious bee in my bonnet about the need to show children something other than shopping malls and motorways and suburbanised countryside; the new novel is about a teacher who takes a pack of 11-year-old kids to Venice, so it would be symmetrical if I gave the palazzo for real kids to use. It would be big enough, and scruffy enough, to suit them nicely.

I would go on writing novels. Couldn't prevent myself. It would be fascinating to see whether I could wean myself off writing opinion columns; pontificating is addictive. Perhaps I could buy a newspaper and interfere horribly with its editorial policy. That should be fun.

I certainly wouldn't carry on playing the lottery. That would be very, very sad behaviour.

Libby Purves's latest novel 'More Lives Than One' is published by Scribner, £16.99. She presents 'Midweek' on BBC Radio 4

HOT PREMIUMS

THEY COST burger all at the time but now... Spider Enamelled Metal Ring (1939): Not Spiderman, but pulp-author R T M Scott's Thirties' crime fighter. This magazine giveaway may be worth up to £5,000. Buck Rogers Cut-Out Book (1934): Worth about £2,000. Century Of Comics (1933): A comic apparently worth more than £10,000. Wonder Woman pin-badge: Valued at more than £1,000. Worth a check down the back of Great Uncle Ernie's sofa. Superman Leader (1940): How many US pilots went down with one of these patches on their jackets? Tons, judging by the five-figure price tag.

POP TARTS

AQUA MAY have made millions singing about Barbie girl but most pop stars are keener to get dolls in their own image on the nation's shelves. KISS: Sid Vicious's mum bought the Sex Pistol a set of four jointed, platform-booted Kiss dolls while he was on remand in 1978. Sonny & Cher: Dolls with more than a dozen changes of clothes sold for £176 at Phillips in London in August 1988. Do we need to make a joke about expensive plastic surgery? Take That: The Jason Orange doll was on the shelf in Woolworth forever. Madonna: Starred in her own sex fantasy, and had two dolls created for *Dick Tracy*.

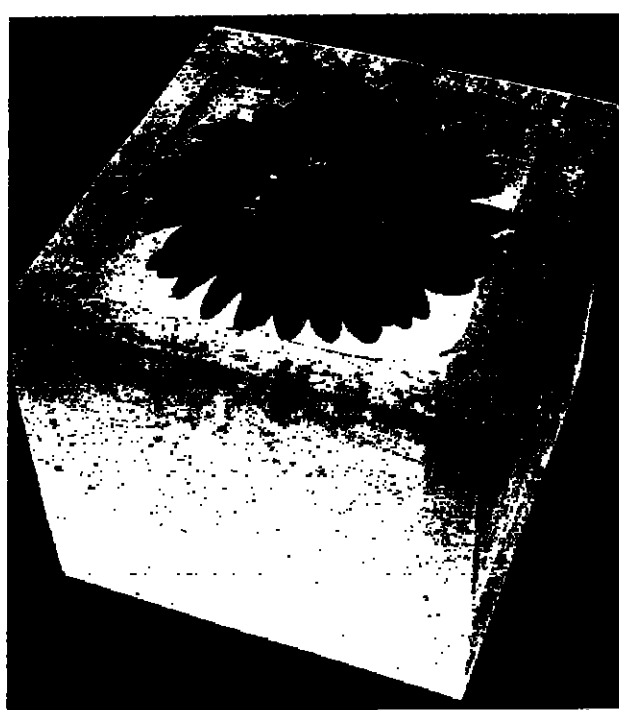
CHECK IT OUT

MODERN GROUND

IF THERE was ever any doubt that the parameters of contemporary art are widening, there is no more. For the first time, this week's 20th Century British Art Fair includes a contemporary design section.

Under the umbrella of Modernground, a showcase for both the budding and the established, 25 designers from a variety of disciplines - furniture, wood, glass, ceramics, leather, lights and jewellery - come together for the fair which prides itself on bringing together the traditional and radical.

A philosophy shared by Modernground's founder, Rachael Barraclough. "Modernground is about bringing together very popular British designers with new, up and coming talent," she says. "It aims to present the most original and exquisite of all the design disciplines, de-



Contemporary design on show at Modernground

Amberg - who has turned his hand from his signature handbags to produce a leather table - and launch finds from abroad. Italian light designer Jacopo Foggini, whose stunning lights and installations are already a favourite of Romeo

Gigli in Italy, makes his UK exhibition debut; as does lead crystal vase-maker Clarissa Berning whose work is so enjoyed by hip architect, John Pawson, that he commissioned 40 vases for his Hong Kong airport project.

Modernground is at the 20th Century British Art Fair, Royal College of Art, Kensington Gore, London SW7, 23-27 Sept
KAREN FALCONER

FORTNUM & MASON

IF BLACK pudding and rhubarb are your thing, then Fortnum and Mason is your place. For Lancastrian and Michelin-starred chef, Paul Heathcote, will shortly be there to promote such Northern "delicacies" and sign his new, aptly-named book *Paul Heathcote's Rhubarb & Black Pudding*.

His visit is part of the one-off, month-long Season of Celebrations - opening on Monday - to launch the newly-expanded store. And, in a series of seminars and demonstrations which cover most Fortnum products from furniture to aromatherapy, food, chefs and eating play a significant part.

There are foodies representing most parts of Britain, followed by tastier lunches. BBC cook, Michael Barry, looks at food from the South East; chef, Peter Jackson, gives "A Taste of Wales"; and there are seminars on the Scottish larder, caviar tasting, honeys, whiskies and practical tips from Sybil Kapoor, followed by lunch based on recipes from her new *Simply British* cookbook. Whatever whets your appetite.



Fortnum & Mason, the temple for foodies

"We want to highlight that good foods come from Britain, not just France and the Far East," a spokeswoman says. "Our food halls specialise in British food and we have a whole host of different foods from around it. But, we also

want to create awareness of our non-food areas and are holding demonstrations in departments throughout the store."

Specialists are coming in from a range of Fortnum suppliers. For example, William Yeoward, of the eponymous

crystal makers, will be autographing pieces of his crystal while The Riedel Glass Challenge gives the low-down on these special wine glasses, designed with a particular shape and glass to restrict air into the wine and improve its taste.

Other demonstrations - most of which take place in the new Burlington Room - include meeting the expert on Steiff Teddy Bears, a book signing by florist Kenneth Turner, meeting the designer Sarah Barton-King of Orford & Swan Silk Scarves and Lorenzo Villorini, creator of the men's fragrance range. Honey-maker Murray McGregor gives a guide to honeys of the world, including the rare French Wild Mountain Rhododendron while aromatherapy houses discuss body treatments and offer head massages. Fashion shows also are taking place in the fashion departments.

The choice is large and varied, and will provide interesting vignettes for ladies and gentlemen with time for a leisurely lunch.

Season of Celebrations, Fortnum and Mason, 181 Piccadilly, London W1 (0845-300 1707), 21 Sept to 17 Oct
KAREN FALCONER

Spending with scruples

Affinity credit card purchases can benefit charities, sports clubs - and even political parties. By Tony Lyons

GIVE WHILE you spend. That is the message you send if you use one of the thousand plus affinity cards that are in use every day. And the Credit Card Research Group estimates that around three million of us now have these cards.

In 1997 the Group estimates that we spent around £34bn on purchases using these cards and that usage grew by some 20 per cent over the previous year.

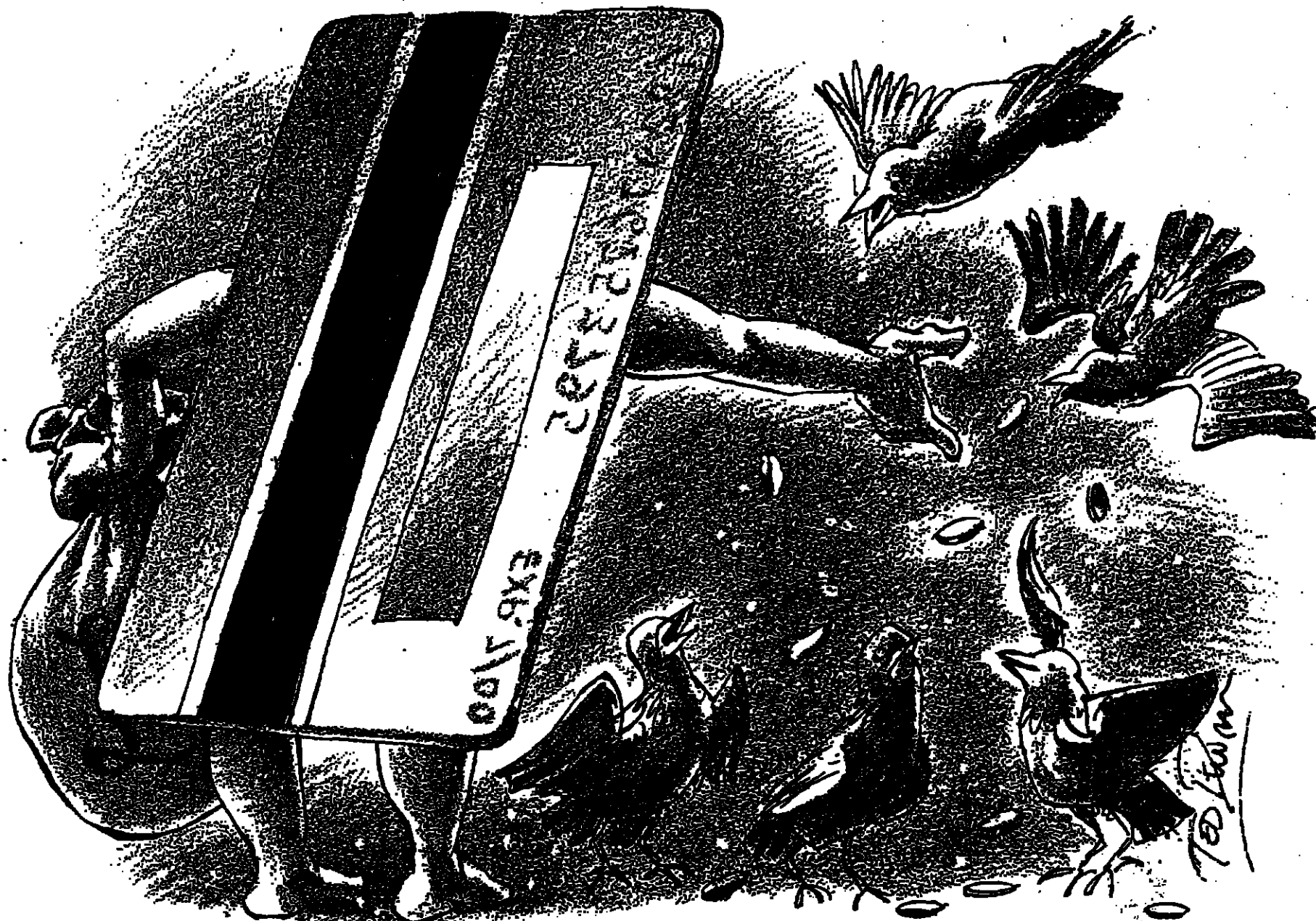
Affinity cards are issued on behalf of charities, political parties, sports clubs and other organisations. They are usually offered by the smaller credit card issuers - it is noticeable that the major ones such as Barclaycard and the other main high street banks don't offer them.

Leaders in the affinity field are Bank of Scotland, MBNA and the combined Beneficial and HFC operation. For them it serves a dual purpose. As well as being seen to link up with worthwhile causes, it also enables them to build up a customer base quickly, especially in England, where they are relatively unknown.

The latest to be issued comes from People's Bank, the low-cost credit card provider, on behalf of Bounty, the organisation that gives practical advice and free product sample packs to new and expectant mothers.

The Family card as it is called, is a credit card with a difference. It is the first to be offered with a personalised photo - as distinct from one with a security photo. "This makes it ideal for those with a young family," says People's Bank's Gary Filton. "If you want one of our cards and pass the normal credit tests, all you have to do is send us a favourite photo, and providing it's legal and not political, we then scan and put it on the card."

Banks issuing affinity cards



rarely say how much the charities and organisations get from your spending. Usually however, they will receive between £5 and £10 when you sign up and then between 2.5p and 5p for each transaction made with it.

Some of the cards have contributed sizeable donations to their affinity partner. The National Trust is estimated to have raised over £1.7m from people using its card. The RSPCA card, issued by the Bank of Scotland in 1993, now has some 96,000 users who have donated over £1m through their transac-

tions with the card. Meanwhile the Halifax's Visa charity card, which has been around for some 10 years, has so far raised over £10m for the three charities it supports - the British Heart Foundation, Imperial Cancer Research Fund and Mencap.

Affinity cards are no more expensive than conventional credit cards. Often they are cheaper than those issued by the main high street banks. The new Family Card, a Mastercard, has a 16.9 per cent APR, that is annual percentage rate, the interest you pay. Mind you, it is slightly more expensive than the

People's Bank Classic Card rate of 15.9 per cent but it still more than 4 per cent below the average credit card. In addition, there is no annual fee and, if the balance is paid off in full, a 56-day interest-free period applies.

"In fact, most affinity cards tend to be free of annual charges," says Jonathan Moakes of Affinity Solutions, a marketing consultancy that, among other things, puts credit card issuers together with organisations wanting to raise funds. "And most are highly competitive on interest rates."

Research carried out in the US, where affinity cards are reckoned to account for some 20 per cent of credit card spending, and here show that customers care more about the charges than any other matters. "If the price and service are good, then people will be motivated to take them," says Mr Moakes.

Mind you, not everyone is happy. According to Affinity Solutions's own survey of organisations that raise money through affinity cards, some 43 per cent of them will seek a new credit card partner when their current contracts expire.

"There are often legitimate reasons why the partnership doesn't always work," says Jonathan Moakes. "The affinity with the issuer may not be strong enough. This can only be found out when there is a poor take-up. Maybe the customer database does not have the correct creditworthiness to pass."

But don't let this stop you using an affinity card. Providing you support the organisation and the charges are right, you can happily use your card knowing that your favourite charity, football club, or whatever, will benefit.

SIMON READ

Trip the plastic fantastic

FROM THIS week Barclaycard has begun offering its cardholders savings on gas and electricity bills. It's the latest broadside in the credit card wars - the battle to get your custom.

Cheap gas bills through a credit card is not a new concept, as Goldfish has been offering exactly that for some time. But the credit card companies are now battling so fiercely to attract new customers that they are even offering cash inducements. Alliance & Leicester, American Express and Birmingham Midshires all now offer cards that pay out cash to cardholders.

Sadly it's not a straight bribe - there's no wad of crispies tenners arriving with your new piece of plastic. Instead the amount paid out is governed by just how much you spend on the card.

With Alliance & Leicester's Money Back card you'll get 0.5 per cent of anything you spend up to £3,000 and 1 per cent of any amount above that. Birmingham & Midshires' rate starts at 0.35 per cent on spending up to £3,000 and 0.75 per cent above that. American Express's Blue card charges cardholders £12 if they take out a card but pays it back if they spend just £1,200 - the cashback is 1 per cent on all spending.

It's not just cash that's king when it comes to offering extras on cards. Other card providers offer loyalty points which can be used against a whole range of goods. GM card loyalty points, for example, can be used to get a discount on Vauxhall cars while Barclaycard's Ford card can get similar savings on Ford vehicles.

Barclaycard's new gas and electricity deal works in a different way. It has linked with utility company Eastern to encourage customers to take advantage of electricity deregulation, which allows you to buy your electricity from any company you like. Barclaycard claims that its customers could save up to 15 per cent on bills by switching through special discounts. Anyone who switches will also have the benefit of having energy bills charged to their Barclaycard account, so automatically giving them up to eight weeks' interest free credit.

CREDIT CARDS - SOME OF THE DEALS

Card	Annual Fee	APR	Interest free period	Annual cost*
Credit cards				
American Express (Blue Amex)	£12	19.5%	46 days	£1,208
Barclaycard	£10	22.9%	56 days	£1,241
Co-operative Bank (Advantage)	nil	13.8%	0 days	£1,138
Hamilton Direct Bank	nil	14.5%	0 days	£1,145
Lloyds Mastercard	£10	23.8%	56 days	£1,251
Midland	£12	20.2%	56 days	£1,214
Sainsbury's Bank	nil	14.9%	0 days	£1,149
Score cards*				
Halifax	nil	26.0%	59 days	£1,260
John Lewis	nil	18.0%	56 days	£1,180
Morris & Spence's	nil	28.3%	55 days	£1,285
Selfridges	nil	27.6%	51 days	£1,276

Note: table excludes all introductory offers.

*Annual cost shows the cost of borrowing £1,000 over a year, including the annual fee, but excluding interest free periods; *assuming bill paid by direct debit.

Sources: Moneyfacts, Credit Card Research Group.

Time to be card sharp

HOW WOULD you like to have your favourite photo emblazoned on your credit card? Advertisers used to say that your choice of plastic said more about you than money; but your choice of photo could be even more revealing.

So let's give thanks to credit card company Capital One for this initiative.

More seriously, however, Capital One's range of cards could prove to be major savers. They currently charge the lowest rate on the market at 6.9 per cent, fixed until next April. Close behind is RBS Advanta's 7.9 per cent APR fix which has just been extended to July 1999.

Some 6.5 million people still hold a Barclaycard when it is one of the most expensive cards on the market. However, even Barclaycard has got in on the fixed rate deal by offering a less generous 18.9 per cent APR until the end of the year.

Other enticing introductory rates include American Express's new Blue Amex, Birmingham Midshires, Co-operative Bank, First Direct, GM Card, Lloyds Bank, and People's Bank Connecticut.

Of course, after the introductory period, you can expect rates to climb steeply again. The trick is to switch to other introductory deals or cheaper cards. Current winners include Alliance & Leicester's Diamond and Bank of Scotland's Visa both at 13.9 per cent APR, and Co-operative Bank's Advantage at 12.6 per cent APR.

Another good reason to switch cards is if you have debts elsewhere. Some card issuers - notably RBS Advanta and Barclaycard - send you up to four cheques when you take out your card. Ostensibly these are designed to clear existing credit card arrangements, but there's nothing to stop you clearing an overdraft.

If you plan to pay off a loan with a credit card cheque, check the redemption penalties. It could be a false economy if you have to pay a penalty fee to repay the loan early.

SIMON READ

Edward Tufte's newest book

VISUAL EXPLANATIONS

IMAGES AND QUANTITIES, EVIDENCE AND NARRATIVE

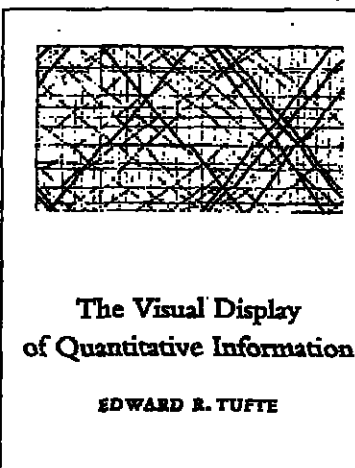
"Few teachers are as accomplished as Edward Tufte when it comes to demonstrating why good design matters in the world. Tufte, a Yale professor and the reigning guru of information design, has just published *Visual Explanations*, the third book of an acclaimed trilogy. Like its predecessors, this latest book is a knockout. Straightforward, witty, packed with vivid examples." WIRED

"On a plinth in our secret, unassailable minds should be a statue of Edward Tufte; and on our bookshelves should be his books..." THE SPECTATOR

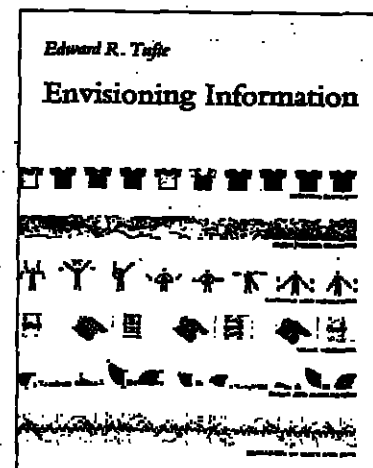
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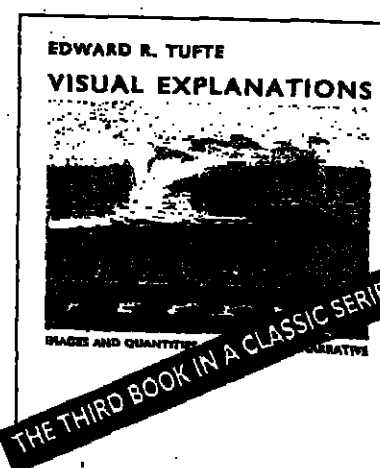
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The new British-built Peugeot 206 is a car whose time has come. By John Simister



AutoCat

a first in this size of car and relatively cheap, too, at \$300. You can't, however, do anything about the coarse leather-grain look that's embossed on the acreage of interior plastics.

And to drive? I drove the 1.6 and the diesel: both are smooth and quiet enough, but lack intimate zeal owing to the 206's surprising corpulence (it weighs over a ton). It's in the bends and over the bumps that Peugeot's tend to delight more than their rivals, though, thanks to a magical combination of a fluid, roll-along ride and taut, helpful handling.

These traits are intact in the 206, particularly the comfort factor, but some of the feeling of communication with the road that gave the 205

PEUGEOT 206 1.6 GLX

Rover 214i 16V: £12,025. Perceived as a larger car, but actually 306-sized. Lively engine.

Volkswagen Polo 1.6 GL: £11,940. Lacks both pace and suspension decorum, but comes across as a quality job.

Nevertheless it's a solid, refined, well-built little car, a product of its time with all the constraints that imposes, but better able than its rivals to rise above those constraints and deliver a good time. The 206 is the most complete supermini you can currently buy, and in my view it's the best. But is it as significant now as the 205 was 15 years ago? Ask me again in 2013.

Goodwood, the great racing venue, is alive once more. By John Simister

Baring to go in Goodwood's heyday *Michael Cooper*

But the racing this weekend provides the real highlights. The revived Goodwood Tourist Trophy, a one-hour race for closed-cockpit GT cars from 1960 to 1984, takes place tomorrow. Damon Hill, recalling the memory of his father, Graham, and, as ever, wearing his father's London Rowing Club

eral races for various ages of Formula One cars up to 1965, a race for historic saloons – and motorcycle races, devised by John Surtees, in which both former champion Barry Sheene and former bike-racer Damon Hill (again) will take part.

One other thing. For men, at least, the weekend is collar and tie. This is the early 1960s.

remember, so do not break the spell. If you are underdressed, you will have to peer over the picket fence instead.

Further details: 0800 0181948, fax 01243 755005, web site <http://www.goodwood.co.uk>

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Back to the old school

Conversions of Victorian school buildings are really taking off. By Mary Wilson

The Victorians built them a-plenty, and now 20th-century builders are knocking them down or converting them into apartments. The old, draughty turn-of-the-century schools, which are so distinctive all around the country in towns and cities with their imposing exteriors, high gables and large windows, do not lend themselves to modern-day tuition.

They are also expensive for both private and local authority owners to maintain and keep warm in the winter. And so many schools are being turned into large apartments, with the new residents sometimes lucky enough to have the use of the school grounds, if these have not been sold off separately.

"One of the difficulties encountered by developers is how to deal with what is often a very large room with extremely large windows, typical of Victorian schools which have frequently undergone conversion," warns Janice Hennessey of Elkins Surveyors.

"Where these rooms have been carved up, the proportions can appear slightly unnatural. If left alone, they can be dramatic, but the sheer size and height of the room and surface area of window can lead to large heating bills."

Sapcote Real Lofts, which has converted a number of schools in London, has found a way round these problems. It simply divides the schools up into basic shell apartments, supplies the basic services - water, electricity, gas, cable TV and telephone - and then leaves the purchaser to design the interior as he or she would like.

"Sapcote Real Lofts are real because ceiling heights are left untouched. We don't create artificial square footage by imposing galleries where there shouldn't be any, so owners' imaginations can run riot," says the company's chairman, Stuart Sapcote. "What owners buy are the grand Victorian features of these superbly built schools."

Sapcote is currently selling loft apartments at The Paragon in Bermondsey, London SE1, which was opened in 1900. A church-like,



New lease of life: the Mansion House, part of the refurbishment at Tedrow Homes' Oakley Hall development

triple-volume penthouse loft with exposed timber beams is on the market for £295,000, with the cheapest homes being two semi-detached houses with double volume rooms and exposed beams. These are being sold for £125,000 each.

For the first time, the company has fitted out two of its apartments. These are priced at £199,500 and £170,000. And for owners who prefer using bicycles to cars, taxis or buses, a pool of 15 bikes is being provided.

At the Grade II listed Greenwich Academy, Blackheath Road, south east London, Sapcote has three out of 27 lofts still for sale. This was the West Greenwich Boys School, built in 1874/5 and prices for the remaining lofts range from £165,000 to £187,500.

In Cirencester, Gloucestershire, Redrow Homes is converting Oakley Hall. This was used as a private

school for more than 70 years, with pupils including Chris Brasher, founder of the London Marathon, and the broadcaster Julian Pettifer.

The exterior has been restored together with the 1919 chapel and surrounding Cotswold stone walls, and the old school bell has been placed in the communal lobby. Twelve apartments have been created, of which nine are for sale, priced from £110,000 to £190,000.

A large development in Cheltenham is taking place around the former St Mary's College. The site was bought by TH Kingdome & Sons, an Oxford-based developer. The first phase is the conversion of a Grade II listed building, now called Shaftesbury Hall, into 31 one, two and three-bedroom apartments. Prices range from £85,000 for a one-bedder up to £150,000 for a three-bedder. There will be 84 homes in all.

In London, the Santley Primary School in Santley Street, SW4 is being turned into 47 apartments with the teacher's block and kitchen block being converted into seven houses by Blenheim Bishop. There will also be 12 new-build three-bedroom houses in the playground.

Trinity House, in Alle Street, London E1, is a 19th-century German Lutheran Church school, which is being converted by Pathfinder into seven apartments and three studios. Its former chapel, with its high ceilings, large arched windows and timber panelling, will become two studios. Prices range from £125,000 for a one-bedroom apartment to £235,000 for the penthouse.

Village schoolhouses also make excellent family houses and Humberts is selling a number of these including The Schoolhouse in Colsterworth, near Grantham, Lincoln-

shire. This was built in 1893 and converted in the late Seventies into a family home. With five bedrooms, a large kitchen/breakfast room and large garden, the house is on the market for £175,000 through Humberts' Grantham office.

Its Devon office is selling another converted schoolhouse in Luppitt, near Hoxton. This was converted 30 years ago into a lovely family home with views over the National Trust landmark of Durdham Hill. It has four bedrooms, an office/guest suite on the ground floor and pretty gardens. It is on the market for £265,000.

Sapcote Real Lofts, 0171-937 3878; Redrow Homes (SW), 01285 656006; Pathfinder, 0171-736 9669; FPD Savills, 01865 269010; Blenheim Bishop, 0171-495 1253; Humberts, Grantham, 01476 576133; Humberts, Hoxton, 01404 42455

THREE TO VIEW

FOR WHEN THE HOLIDAYS OVER

THE SUMMER is over, the schools are back and the locals have reclaimed the streets from the tourists. No better time than now, then, to buy Spinnaker Cottage, in Fore Street, Salcombe, Devon. The three-bedroom former fisherman's cottage is just off the waterfront, with shared access to the quay in front of it; and the cottage has views across the main anchorage and the mouth of the creek.

In a town built on a hill, Spinnaker Cottage has the advantage of being on the level, along with the pubs, shops and restaurants. Extensively restored by the present owners, the property has a 18ft sitting room with views across the water and a large kitchen with a doorway down to the boat store under the cottage. It is for sale at £250,000 through Michael Weller & Co (01548 843246).



THE CROWDS looking for a parking space in Burford, in the Cotswolds, have all gone and peace has descended on Fulbrook, the Oxfordshire village just a mile's walk across the water meadows from the town. Honeyuckle Cottage, in a quiet no-through lane, is a one-bedroom stone

cottage in a group of similar properties. It has a 12ft sitting room with leaded light windows, a beamed ceiling, a working fireplace and fitted bookshelves. The cottage also has a 16ft kitchen dining room with part-stone and part-painted boarded walls and a flagstone floor. The upstairs bedroom has an open stone fireplace and a window seat overlooking the lane. There is an enclosed courtyard garden and stone outbuilding, and across the lane is a single garage. The cottage is for sale at £129,000 through Mallams (01993 822666).



WILLOWHALE COTTAGE sits in half an acre of secluded gardens a mile from the beach at Aldwick Bay and two miles west of Bognor Regis town centre. The four-bedroom thatched cottage, listed grade II, has the kind of gardens usually seen only in magazines. The studded front door is so photogenic that it's been given a mention in its own right in the details. There is a sitting room and a lounge, both with inglenook fireplaces, a separate dining room and a large fitted kitchen with quarry tiled floor. Outside there is a workshop, summer house and garage (with thatched roof). For sale through GA at £257,500 (01243 826311).



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Prejudice in the market

It's bad enough trying to find a home, but what if you also encounter racist attitudes? By Penny Jackson

A friend who was twice turned down as a suitable co-habitant in a flat still remembers the burning sense of rejection. Since the issue was not money, the only objections must have been on personal grounds – and years on she has not forgotten.

Frustrated tenants and buyers alike know how demoralising it is to keep being beaten on the final stretch. But at least they can retreat, vowing to move faster and offer higher next time. Not so for Shaidsa Yousaf. If money had been her stumbling block she could have done something about it, but since she was denied the chance of viewing the house she wanted simply because she was Asian, she could do nothing. She and her family started house-hunting in Glasgow four years ago, and only within the last month have they finally moved, a year after she won her case of racial discrimination against a firm of estate agents on appeal.

"We had to make a stand. You develop a thick skin when it comes to things like name-calling, but when it involves a basic necessity such as a house, something has to be done," says Mrs Yousaf from her new home. "I had to prove my suspicions were correct."

Like everyone else, estate agents have to be aware of the law concerning race relations, disability and sexual discrimination and certainly cannot excuse any lapses by claiming to follow a client's instructions. The problem is, as the Commission for Racial Equality points out, discrimination is usually covert and the victim unaware of what is happening.

Mrs Yousaf started her legal battle after estate agents refused her the chance to view a house. After her initial complaint was rejected in the civil court, as a test the Yousafs asked two white colleagues and an Asian couple to ring for an appointment. Only the white couple were given one.

"Just before that, I had turned up at one house for sale where the woman shut the door in my face. It was a long, tiring fight and I would like to have won sooner. We were put off house-hunting for a while and even with this house it wasn't without problems. We never managed to get a second viewing and we don't really know why. Our buyers have been delighted, though."

"But there is far more racism in the housing market, especially in the good areas, that people imagine. In lettings it can be bad. We have an elderly friend who put in a good offer which was rejected, so he sent some Scottish friends in his place and only changed the details at the last minute," says Mrs Yousaf.

Her case had the full backing of the Commission for Racial Equality, which itself tested for racial discrimination in the private rented sector a few years ago. The survey *Sorry, It's Gone*, is a phrase horribly familiar to anyone looking to rent, but in some instances it is a smokescreen of prejudice. And there are those in the lettings business who are not all that surprised.



Immigrants from Africa and the Caribbean in the Fifties faced discrimination over housing – and many believe attitudes haven't changed Corbis

"In central London we would get quite a few landlords who say that 'I would rather not have so and so', but once you point out to them that it is illegal you find out how serious their comments are," says Anabel Barnes of Hamptons International.

"Often they tiptoe around the edge and talk about how concerned they are to get the right type of tenant. They ask where they come from and say that they don't want religious fanatics. But we make it absolutely clear that we cannot represent

someone on that basis. Not only would we break the law, but we would also be failing in our duty of care for the tenant."

Not long ago, Hamptons refused to continue with a client who turned down a couple on racial grounds even though they were "terrific tenants" offering the full asking price of £1,000 a week.

"Maybe owning property at the top end of the market makes some people feel that they can dictate on everything," adds Barnes.

Certainly, since landlords are perfectly entitled to specify no children, no smokers, no students or no pets, dictating legitimate terms can easily slide into the unacceptable. Euphemism is often employed to throw agents off the scent.

"You get funny landlords who go round in circles, and I know exactly what they are saying. You try and steer the conversation in a direction that makes it clear they would be unwise to spell things out," says Ana du Cloux, lettings director of John D Wood. "If I do see prejudice, it is more likely to come from expat landlords who suggest they want a tenant of their own class and social standing."

"Some owners will specify what nationality they do want. I have been asked for Japanese tenants because, I was told, they take their shoes off and keep their homes immaculate."

On the sales front, Peter Young of John D Wood's Kensington office in London, says he has on occasions had to point out gen-

ty that everyone's money is as good as the next person's. "Where prejudice does come in is when you get two or three people bidding for a property. We recently had an English family with children and dogs bidding against an American. The American was an aggressive banker who gave me no quarter in negotiating style. The knee-jerk reaction of the owner was to say 'I don't want him to have it whatever happens'."

Mrs Yousaf would have given anything for the chance to put herself out of the running. As it was, she suspended her house-hunting for three years while fighting to show that she was treated unfairly. "This shows that no one should sit back and take it," she says. "But now at last we have the home we wanted."

HOME LOAN UPDATE

FIRST ACTIVE, the telephone mortgage lender, is launching a current account mortgage with a 6.99 per cent rate capped for two years. The deal involves opening a current account with First Active, into which a borrower's salary must be paid. All payments into the account are instantly credited against the outstanding capital. Withdrawals are permitted, within overpayment limits. Cheque book and credit card facilities are available. There are no redemption penalties. Call 0800 550551.

CHELTEMHAM & Gloucester, the mortgage arm of Lloyds Bank, is launching a new range of fixed and capped-rate loans which include all legal work free for remortgage customers, if they use a C&G-nominated solicitor, or £250 towards their costs if they do not. The deals available include a capped rate of 6.39 per cent until December 2002, with a six-year redemption penalty, or a fix of 6.59 per cent until December 2001, with a three-year redemption penalty. Details from any Lloyds Bank branch.

BRITANNIA Building Society is launching two five-year fixed rate deals, pegged at 6.59 on loans up to 75 per cent of a home's value. This mortgage has no redemption penalties beyond the fixed period. Alternatively, a lower-rate loan with a fix of 6.24 per cent, is available for those prepared to accept a redemption penalty extending two years beyond the original fixed period. The loans include 12 months' free unemployment cover, a £250 cashback for existing Britannia members or first-time buyers who are immediate family of existing members. Call 0800 526350.

CHASE DE VERE, the mortgage broker, is offering two loans for buy-to-let landlords. One is a 6.75 per cent rate, fixed for 10 years, on minimum loans of £75,000. The other is a five-year fix at the same rate. Mortgages are available on a loan-to-value of 80 per cent or less. Redemption penalties apply. A 1 per cent completion fee is levied on the loan. Call 0171 930 7242.

STEPPING STONES

ONE WOMAN'S PROPERTY STORY



Hazel Taylor has moved four times since 1979

NURSERY MANAGER Hazel Taylor has bought four properties since 1979. She now lives in a Victorian three-bedroom house in Sidcup, Kent with her daughter Rachel.

Getting married prompted Hazel Taylor to take on another commitment, a house which she bought in 1979 for £25,250. She was renting a flat in Kennington, south London, but wanted to live nearer her family so chose a 1930's end of terrace in Blackfen, Kent. The Taylors were fortunate. They got a low rate mortgage. Hazel's husband worked in a bank, and quickly found somewhere they liked: "It was before things took off, prices were low and there was a lot of choice."

The three-bedroom terrace was in good condition but they knocked out some walls and created more space. It was fine for a couple but in 1982 Rachel was born, prompting them to find somewhere "with larger room sizes."

In 1985 they sold for £45,000, and bought "literally around the corner" for £43,000. "We'd had no intention of staying locally and were looking as far afield as Tonbridge but my father-in-law told me about the house which we saw and liked."

The semi-detached house, although of a similar period, "had more potential", with its spacious rooms and garage and the family lived happily there for 10 years. They didn't outgrow the house but the time came to stretch themselves: "We were approaching 40 so it was now or never if we were to get a 20-year mortgage before we were 60."

In 1995, they sold for £82,000 and, with an eye for investment, bought a 1920s semi-detached house in Pottis Wood, Kent, for £140,000. This house had larger rooms and the period features – big bay windows, fireplaces and coving – that Hazel loves.

"It was the house I thought we'd live in forever." Sadly it was not to be and a year later, their decision to divorce meant another move.

In the heart of commuter land, 10 minutes from the station and near the M5, the popular area meant a quick sale, at £152,000, for the Taylors. Hazel made a discovery: "Our purchasers tried to buy the house a year before but we'd beaten them to it."

Now searching for a house for herself and Rachel, there were new priorities. "Being on my own I wanted somewhere that was easy to maintain but with features and a decent-sized bedroom for Rachel like the one she'd left."

In January 1997, Hazel bought a Victorian, three-bedroom house for £78,000 in the area she grew up in, Sidcup, Kent. The fully-renovated house has sanded floors and is painted white throughout. Local agent Julian Curry of Andrews says the popular area is "filled with good, solid housing stock" and estimates Hazel's house is worth £110,000.

GINETTA VEDRICKAS

THOSE MOVES IN BRIEF

1979 – bought terraced 1930s house for £25,250. Sold for £45,000.
1985 – bought three bedroom semi for £43,000. Sold for £82,000.
1995 – bought 1920s Pottis Wood house for £140,000. Sold for £152,000.
1997 – bought Victorian house for £78,000 now worth £110,000.

If you would like your home moves to be featured in *Stepping Stones*, please write to Nio Ciatti, *Stepping Stones*, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London, E14 4DL.

The day our publican painted over the Georgian brickwork

A building may be historic but if it's not listed it can be altered for the worse. By Clive Fewins

DESPITE THE pleas of the planners and the protests of many residents, the new licensee of our 200-year-old village pub has applied a coat of thick white paint to the Georgian brick frontage.

With a few sweeps of the brush the whole appearance and patina of the fine facade, with its attractive pattern of Flemish bond brickwork with glazed headers that gives the building its "local distinctiveness", now lies beneath a coat of impervious paint which experts say it would be extremely hard to remove.

Equally sad, according to the historic building specialists, the new owner has set in train a process that will seriously damage, and could ultimately destroy, a fine old building.

Yet the outcry against this action in our village newsletter was counterbalanced by a similar barrage of letters in the next month's issue defending the right of the man to alter his unlisted building entirely as he wishes. A number state that they prefer the building painted white.

This is by no means the first controversy of its kind, centring on perfectly legal changes to unlisted buildings in conservation areas that has caused a local outcry and conservation among planners, who have been powerless to intervene.

Similar cases to this have hit the national headlines in recent years. There was the house in a conservation area in Bath whose owner insisted on painting the front door green, while all the others in the terrace were white, and also the unlisted terraced house with a fine brick frontage in a conservation area in Kensington whose owner painted the frontage white, superimposed with large pink spots.

There is also the ongoing saga of the restaurateur in Islington who rebuilt the facade of his brick-fronted restaurant in a conservation area in a non-matching brick.

These are but a handful of examples of the sort of "horror" in towns and villages that the English Historic Towns Forum was formed to campaign against.



Many of our finest old buildings are at the mercy of thoughtless development because they have not been listed

The forum was founded in 1987 with the aim of fighting what its literature calls "an epidemic of alterations which ruin the individual appearance of buildings and dilute the unique architectural character which distinguishes each region of the country". "Since 1982, we have been battling with successive governments to tighten the regulations that govern the estimated 1.7 million unlisted buildings in the 3,000 conservation areas in England and Wales," says Gordon Somerville, head of planning at Scarborough, Yorkshire, Borough Council.

"Contrary to popular belief unlisted buildings in conservation areas can be much altered without planning permission," Mr Somerville says. "The current situation is unclear, full of grey areas and a complete shambles."

"One of the inconsistencies is that a man like the new licensee in the village pub is not permitted under current regulations to clad his unlisted

building with stone, artificial stone, timber, plastic, or tiles, yet he has complete freedom to paint it and completely alter its appearance in a similar way."

Local Authority Conservation officers point out that there is a means of preventing highly damaging alterations in conservation areas by imposing what are known as Article 4 Directions. These are blanket orders that remove what are known as "permitted development rights". However these are rare, because when these are introduced local authorities are obliged to pay compensation if a householder incurs any financial loss as a reduction of his permitted development rights.

"One of the most unfortunate things when historic buildings in conservation areas are painted is the damage to the building," says former local authority conservation expert, Jonathon Taylor.

He instances the damage caused by paint to surfaces which were de-

signed to be left natural. "If you use a paint that is not vapour-permeable – which in effect means the majority of products on the market – and it is applied to a solid-walled building it will ultimately destroy the building," he says.

Adrian Dobinson, who runs a Bath-based architectural design and renovation consultancy, says: "Very often these people do not set out to cause problems intentionally. Often the horrors they perpetrate stem from good intentions. The man who painted the pub probably has no idea that we do not, historically, paint high quality brickwork in this country."

Mr Dobinson's proposed solution is simple. He says that if repairs to buildings were redefined to come under the category of "alterations" then they would be subject to local authority control. He points out that painting an unlisted building in a conservation area, like the pub in our village, comes under "repairs", while cladding counts as an "alteration".

Other experts are more cautious. The point was underlined by what planners see as a landmark judgement in the House of Lords last year, in which the highest court in the land opted for what it saw as the return of rights to householders. The Lords redefined the terms "building", and "demolition" in the context of town and country planning legislation.

"Demolition was defined as totally or substantially destroying the principal building involved," says Gordon Somerville. "It appears that now bits of historic buildings in conservation areas can be removed without any permission whatsoever."

"This ruling has blown away years of assumptions, namely that partial demolition of an unlisted building in a conservation area was subject to control. Redefine the key word 'demolition' and the conservation area control regime loses much of its force."

"As building conservationists we now find ourselves in a worse position than in 1992. These are perilous days for unlisted buildings in conservation areas."

HOT SPOT
TUFNELL PARK, NORTH LONDON

Short on night-life, long on quality of life

ANY LONDON area which has a local Underground station named after it usually has nowhere to hide, but Tufnell Park has stubbornly retained its obscurity and, thus far in terms of house prices, its modesty.

With its solid housing stock and excellent transportation, this small residential community is still affordable and continues to represent excellent value.

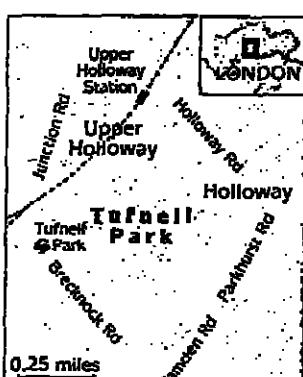
Tufnell Park nestles among better-known neighbours - Camden Town to the south, grim Archway and Holloway on its immediate northern borders, and posh Hampstead and Highgate just beyond.

Holloway gives its name both to Her Majesty's Prison for Women, which lies just within Tufnell Park on Camden Road, and the area's main shopping thoroughfare, the no-nonsense Holloway Road.

"Tufnell Park is not well known to people outside the area because it does not have the bars, shops and restaurants to draw people here," says area resident Hilary Wade, who is also marketing manager for Winkworth Estate Agents. "We have corner shops, but we even have to travel to supermarkets. Tufnell Park is purely residential, which is good as well as bad."

Ms Wade lives in a split-level two double-bedroom apartment atop a four-storey house. "I bought the flat three years ago but let it for the first time two years, at more than £1,000 per month. It was snapped up immediately. Tufnell Park is a good area for letting." Previously, she lived in the Angel end of Islington, where prices soared in recent years.

The most popular roads in Tufnell Park, according to Liam Sullivan, senior sales negotiator for estate agent Drivers and Norris, are Hugo



0.25 miles
Road, which is near the underground station, St Georges Avenue and Dalmeny Road.

The latter continues into Dalmeny Avenue, which skirts Holloway Prison. But as befits any slammer worthy of the name, it is self-contained and hardly impinges on its surrounding area. "The prison does not affect anything," says Mr Sullivan, who also notes that the better roads "are residential, leafy and wide. The local council estates are small and safe. They are not the kind associated with our traditional images of high crime."

Convenient to the City as well as the West End, Tufnell Park attracts young professionals and also families who want more house for their money than is available elsewhere in Islington. "Tufnell Park is the only area in Islington with good schools," says Winkworth's Ms Wade. "And some of the homes are architectural gems."

The absence of local restaurants, cafes and clubs is not entirely dire. Mr Sullivan notes that while Tufnell Park itself is quiet, "there is also a bit of life around here". Camden Town is only two underground stops away. Also nearby is Highgate, which has excellent pubs and restaurants. Kentish Town and Holloway Road also cater for night owls.

ROBERT LIEBMAN



Peace and quiet and architectural quality are at the heart of Tufnell Park

Neville Elder

THE LOW-DOWN

Strengths - Handsome large Victorian houses and superb transportation - bus as well as underground - characterise Tufnell Park, which has its eponymous Northern Line station and is also close to Kentish Town station. Holloway Road extends from Archway to Highbury Corner, where the Victoria, Piccadilly and North London Lines converge. Buses on Holloway Road serve the West End and the City.

Weaknesses - Not much greenery, and shopping involves a trek to Holloway Road, which contains major supermarkets and a smattering of

new and second-hand furniture shops. Prices - Ex-council one-bed flats sell for £70,000, and two-bed flats sell for £85,000 and up. By comparison, a one-bed converted flat sells for approximately £95,000, and two beds go for £125,000 and up. Three bed houses start at about £250,000, and a five-bed house is in the £400,000 range. Council Tax - Council Tax in the People's Republic of Islington tops the charts for London, from £608 in Band A to £1,824 in Band H. Schools - Yebury and St Marks are the local primary schools, and Mount Carmel Roman Catholic and Acland

Burghley (Borough of Camden) are the secondary schools. Harborough caters for autistic children. Estate Agents - Barnhams 0171 609 3537; Drivers and Norris 0171 607 5001. Greenery - Don't look for a park named Tufnell. The area is named after William Tufnell, who inherited a manor in the 18th century. Nearby are a recreation ground and a small park, on the far side of Tufnell Park Road. There is also a tiny park, converted from one of a row of houses bombed-out in the Second World War, on the far side of Tytherton Road. However, Hampstead Heath is close by.

BARGAIN HUNTER

PROPERTY OF THE WEEK

Restoration drama

IT HAS two kitchens, a kitchenette and a scullery, hasn't been decorated in years, is in need of central heating and stands near the busy A342 between

Devizes and Chippenham. But it's a lovely mellow old country house, stands in seven acres, has an old stone coach house with stable, tack room, hayloft and dovecote... and it's just had £45,000 knocked off the price. Mulberry Lodge in Rowde, Wiltshire, is 14 miles from Bath, the city that casts a golden glow over property prices in a 20-mile radius, partly because of its own beautiful buildings, partly because of the good schools and also because it's within easy reach of London. Around £50,000 could make this house a real gem. Others in the area, in good condition but with no land to speak of, have sold for upwards of £465,000. Offers of £250,000 to joint agents Cluttons (01225 469511) or Drewett Neate (01380 722377).

ROSALIND RUSSELL

DEAL OF THE WEEK

Card sharp

AMERICAN EXPRESS has launched a credit card. Nothing new about that, nor about the fact that the Blue card offers 1 per cent of your money back for every pound you spend. Alliance & Leicester has been doing very well out of that particular wheeze.

No, this card is different in that it offers a range of nice bells and whistles, such as an introductory rate of 9.9 per cent APR for the first six months, rising to 19.5 per cent APR thereafter. Plus the money-back rate will go up to 5 per cent in November, useful for all your Xmas shopping. This is possibly the most useful flexible friend you can have this Christmas - as long as you don't go mad on it. Call 0800 700111.

NIC CICUTTI

CAR OF THE WEEK

Feast from the east

NOT ALL Japanese sports cars are recent grey imports. Some are overlooked and underrated - like the Subaru SVX. These days Subaru is a charismatic name thanks to its world championship rallying success with the Impreza. Back in 1991, though, it was best known for off-landers that farmers liked. That is why no one took the four-wheel drive, 230 bhp, 150mph supercar seriously. The styling was very much retro futuristic Gerry Anderson, and a price tag of over £30,000 did not help, and Subaru only sold a handful. T Worldwide Vehicle Supplies has a 1993 example in black, with black leather interior, air conditioning and every extra you could need for a mere £12,257.

JAMES RUPPERT

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